美味しんぼ

おい

12

雁屋 哲
花咲アキラ

ビッグコミックス好評発売中！

カムイ外伝（白土三平）……………………全20巻
白土三平異色作品集（白土三平）…… 1 ～18集
のたり松太郎（ちばてつや）………… 1 ～22集
ホテル（石ノ森章太郎）……………… 1 ～ 6 集
土佐の一本釣り（青柳裕介）………… 1 ～25集
陽だまりの樹（手塚治虫）………………全11巻
ＭＷ〈ムウ〉（手塚治虫）………………全 3 巻
ドン〈極道水滸伝〉（本宮ひろ志）………全 3 巻
男樹（本宮ひろ志）………………………… 1 ～ 5 集
寄席芸人伝（古谷三敏）…………………全11巻
利平さんとこのおばあちゃん（法月理栄）…… 1 ～ 2 集
パンドラ（里中満智子）…………………全 3 巻
あぶさん（水島新司）……………………… 1 ～38集
浮浪雲（ジョージ秋山）…………………… 1 ～36集
夕焼けの詩（西岸良平）…………………… 1 ～24集
釣りバカ日誌（やまさき十三・北見けんいち）………… 1 ～20集
愛しのチイパッパ（やまさき十三・北見けんいち）…… 1 ～15集
人間交差点（矢島正雄・弘兼憲史）…… 1 ～16集
パイナップルARMY（工藤かずや・浦沢直樹）……… 1 ～ 6 集
ブルー・ジーン（くじらいいくこ）……全 3 巻
Ｆ〈エフ〉（六田登）……………………… 1 ～ 7 集
味いちもんめ（あべ善太・倉田よしみ）………… 1 ～ 3 集
あどりぶシネ倶楽部（細野不二彦）……全 1 巻
キスより簡単（石坂啓）………………… 1 ～ 5 集
ミセスＫに伝言（神戸さくみ）………… 全 1 巻
Cryingフリーマン（小池一夫・池上遼一）…… 1 ～ 5 集
男の自画像（柳沢きみお）……………… 1 ～ 3 集
マネー・ハンター（玄太郎）…………… 1 ～ 2 集
総務部総務課山口六平太（林律雄・高井研一郎）……… 1 ～ 2 集
妻をめとらば（柳沢きみお）…………… 1 ～ 3 集
YAWARA！（浦沢直樹）………………… 1 ～ 2 集
神の左手悪魔の右手（楳図かずお）…… 1 ～ 3 集
BROTHERS（小池一夫・叶精作）…… 1 ～ 3 集
踊る警官（浦沢直樹）………………………全 1 巻
ALICE12（新谷かおる）…………………… 1 集
くどき屋ジョー（ジョージ秋山）……… 1 集

装丁／海野一雄
カバー・フォト／菊地和男

BIG COMICS

美味しんぼ

12

黄金の意味

作・雁屋 哲　画・花咲アキラ

小学館
BC1402

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雁屋　哲 / 花咲アキラ 著作集

■ ビッグコミックス

美味しんぼ……1～12集発売中

ビッグコミックス好評発売中！

明日カンブ（小池一夫・木村えいじ）……1～4集
紅い芝生（小池一夫・弘兼憲史）……全6巻
ホットDOC（きもと加藤はじめ）……1～9集
幸福ブイヨン（三山のぼる）……全2巻
魔物語（小池一夫・叶精作）……全17巻
青春の尻尾（小池一夫・平野仁）……全6巻
エア・ポケット（きもと加藤はじめ）……全2巻
めぞん一刻（高橋留美子）……全15巻
美味しんぼ（雁屋哲・花咲アキラ）……1～12集
わたしは真悟（楳図かずお）……全10巻
なぜか笑介（聖日出夫）……1～13集
ぼっけもん（岩重孝）……全14巻
うち若葉！（岩重孝）……全1巻
軽井沢シンドローム（たがみよしひさ）……全9巻
傷追い人（小池一夫・池上遼一）……全11巻
瑠璃色ゼネレーション（柳沢きみお）……全7巻
パラダイス通信（神戸さくみ）……全3巻
僚平新事情（六田登）……全2巻
いっかにぶんのいち（むつ利之）……全2巻
かっとび米熊氏（北見けんいち）……全1巻
弐十手物語（小池一夫・神江里見）……1～40集
微熱MY LOVE（村生ミオ）……1～10集
モノクローム・レター（村生ミオ）……全2巻
風のノブ（前川K三）……1～5集
羽なしティンカーベル（柳沢きみお）……全3巻
二匹のブル（瀬叩龍・岩重孝）……1～5集
HARD METAL（松本零士）……1集
パンツが大好き（よしまさこ）……全1巻
はっぱ64（山本直樹）……全3巻
ぼくの西鉄ライオンズ（長谷川法世）……1集
土佐の一本釣り純平PART2（青柳裕介）……1～2集
ボギー（やまさき十三 芳谷圭児）……1～2集
冒険してもいい頃（みやすのんき）……1～2集
マドンナ（くじらいいくこ）……1～2集
信長（工藤かずや・池上遼一）……1集

美味しんぼ

12

黄金の意味

作・雁屋 哲
画・花咲アキラ

12 黄金の意味

キャビアを使った料理。上写真は、イカにキャビアを詰め、コンソメジェルを添えたもの。裏表紙写真はラディッシュ添え。（調理／まっくろう）

美味（おい）しんぼ

美味(おい)しんぼ

12 黄金の意味

第1話　暑中の味……3
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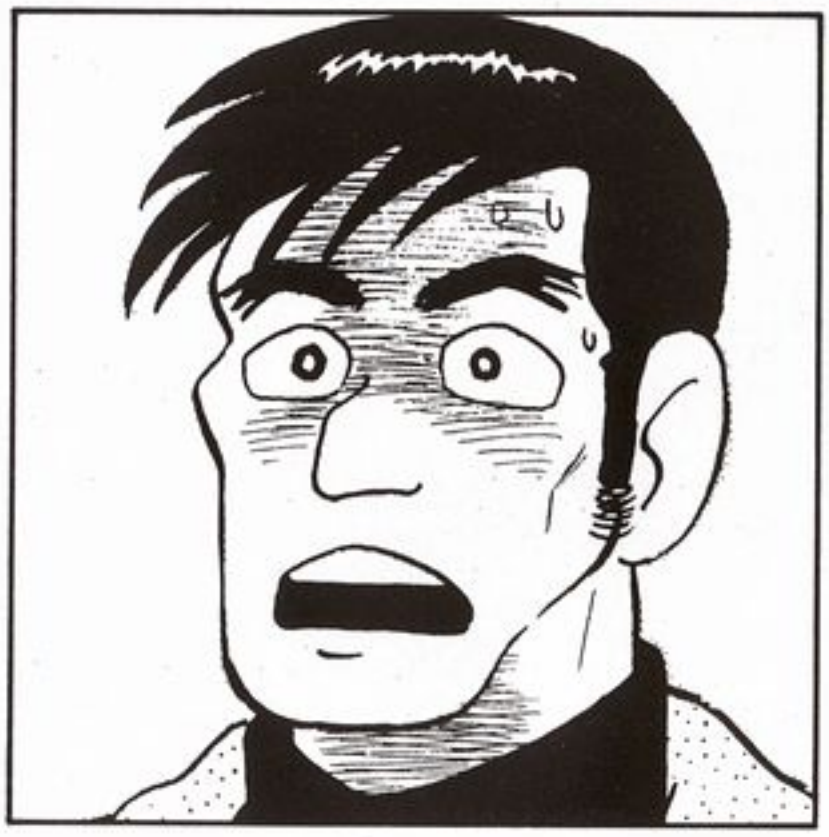
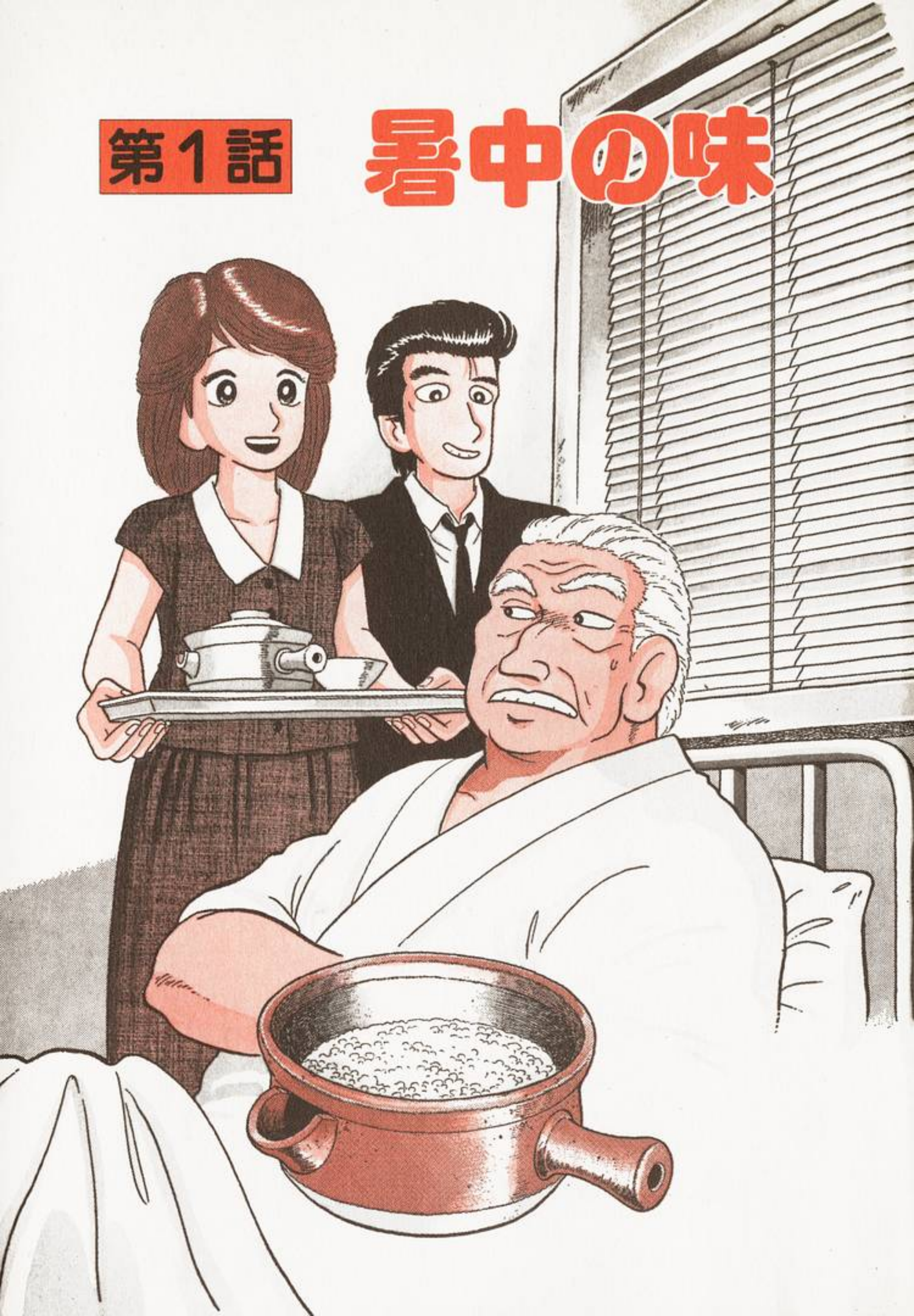
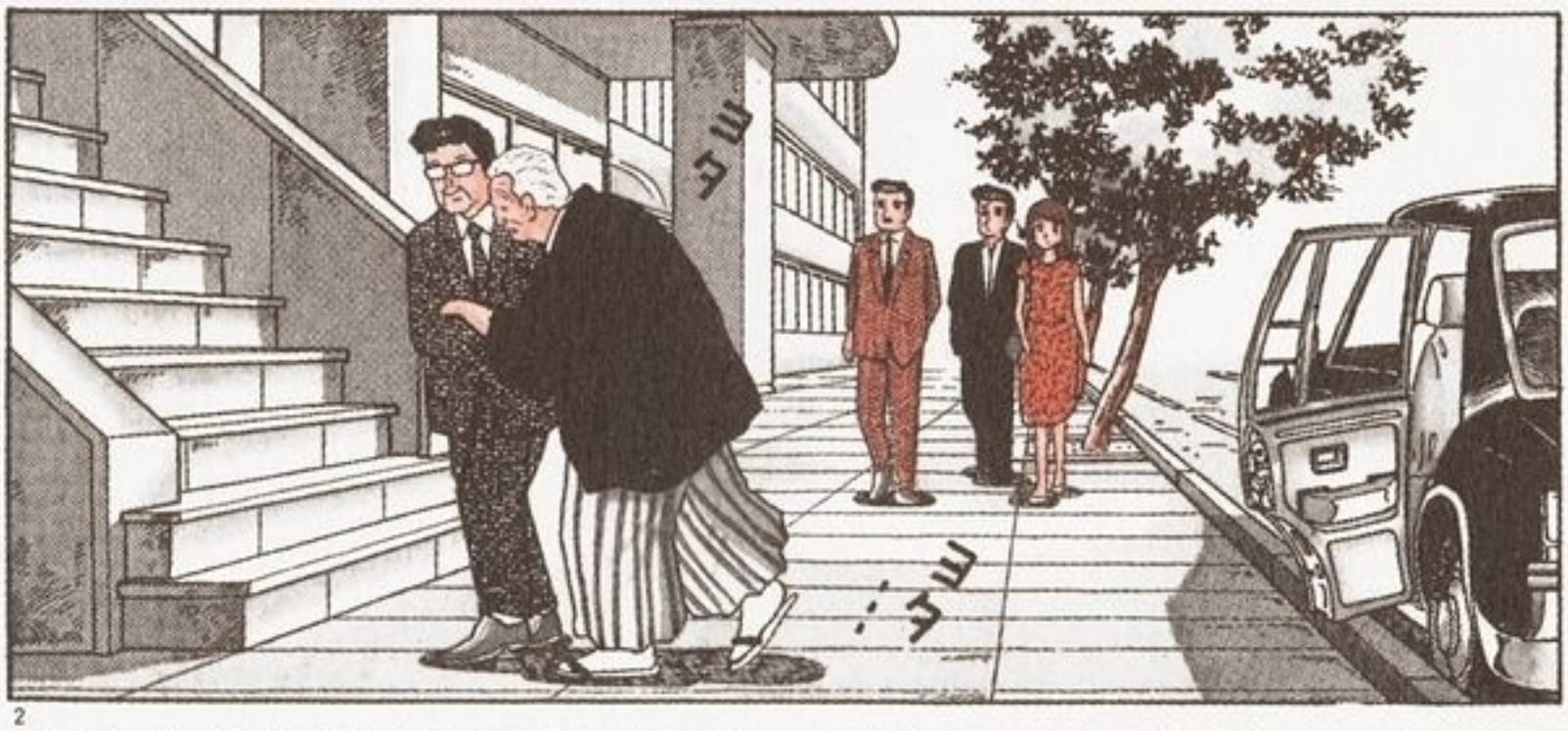


第1話　暑中の味





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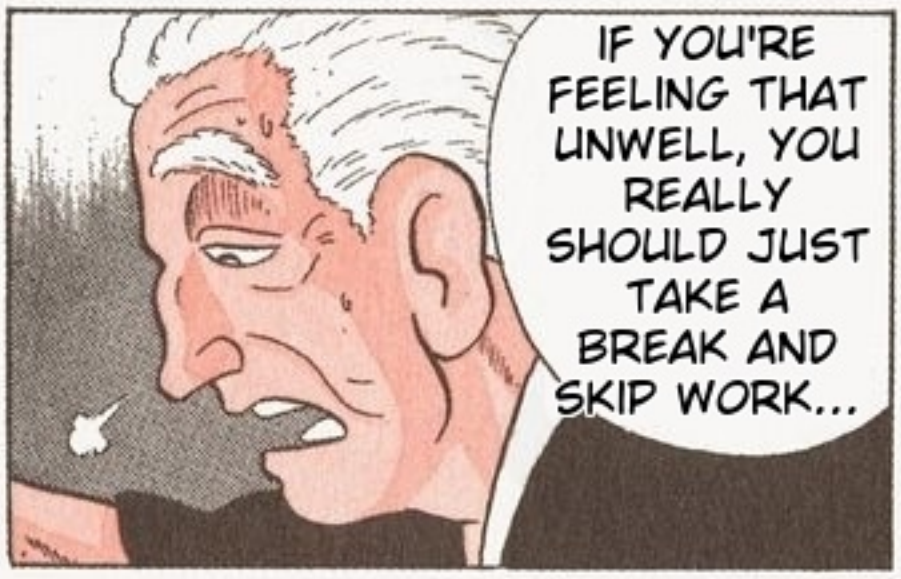
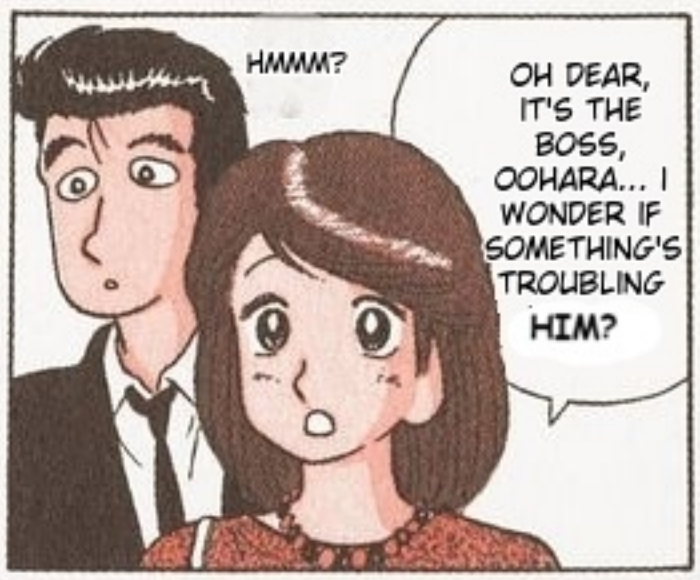

IF YOU'RE FEELING THAT UNWELL, YOU REALLY SHOULD JUST TAKE A BREAK AND SKIP WORK...


HMMM?
OH DEAR, IT'S THE BOSS, OOHARA... I WONDER IF SOMETHING'S TROUBLING HIM?

ARE YOU SAYING THE TOZAI NEWSPAPER COULD BE TAKEN OVER?!
TOZAI NEWSPAPER!
WE'RE AT A CRITICAL CROSSROADS FOR OUR COMPANY'S SURVIVAL...
NO, WE CAN'T AFFORD TO JUST SIT BACK AND LET THAT HAPPEN.
IF STRANGE SHAREHOLDERS GAIN POWER, WE FEAR WE WON'T BE ABLE TO EDIT THE NEWSPAPER FREELY, BUT IRONICALLY, THAT'S BACKFIRED ON US.
AS YOU ALL KNOW, OUR COMPANY'S SHARES ARE PRIVATELY HELD.

INITIALLY, THE OHARA FAMILY HELD 50% OF THE SHARES, WHILE THE SHIMOHATA AND KIMUKAWA FAMILIES EACH HELD 25%.

THE FOUNDERS OF THE TOZAI NEWSPAPER WERE THE CURRENT OHARA FAMILY HEAD'S GREAT-GRANDFATHER, OHARA KODO, ALONG WITH HIS FRIENDS, SHIMOHATA HIDEYUKI AND KIMUKAWA SEIICHIRO. THE OHARA FAMILY HAS BEEN RECOGNIZED AS THE RIGHTFUL OWNERS EVER SINCE.

AS A RESULT, OUR SHAREHOLDING RATIO NOW STANDS AT THE OHARA FAMILY WITH 30%, THE SHIMOHATA AND KIMUKAWA FAMILIES EACH AT 18%, AND THE EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN AT 34%.

AFTER THE WAR, WE EMBARKED ON A JOURNEY OF DEMOCRATIZING THE COMPANY, ALLOWING OUR EMPLOYEES TO HOLD SHARES. WE INCREASED OUR CAPITAL FOR THIS PURPOSE AND EVEN ALLOCATED SOME OF THE SHARES OWNED BY THE OHARA FAMILY TO THE EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP PLAN.

WAIT, WHAT?!

4

ARE YOU KIDDING ME?! THAT GUY'S GUILTY OF CORRUPTION TIED TO FOREIGN WEAPONS COMPANIES, ISN'T HE?!

BUT RECENTLY, THE SHIMOHATA FAMILY HAS SOLD ALL THEIR SHARES TO-

IT'S BEEN REVEALED THAT WE HAD HANDED OVER SHARES TO THAT INFAMOUS WAR PROFITEER, NOROKINKICHI.

DELICIOUS!

BUT IF THE OHARA FAMILY TEAMS UP WITH THE EMPLOYEE STOCKHOLDERS, THEY HOLD 64%, SO NORO WON'T HAVE HIS WAY SO EASILY. STILL, WITH 36%, HE COULD PLACE SEVERAL DIRECTORS AND MEDDLE IN MANAGEMENT.
WELL, IF THAT HAPPENS, HE'LL SURPASS THE OHARA FAMILY AND BECOME THE TOP SHAREHOLDER!
AND GET THIS, NORO IS TRYING TO STRONG-ARM THE KIMUKAWA FAMILY INTO SELLING THEIR SHARES TOO.
コックリ
AT THAT POINT, IT'S PRACTICALLY A TAKEOVER!!
コク…
WE HAVE TO RALLY ALL EMPLOYEES TO ENSURE THE KIMUKAWA FAMILY DOESN'T HAND OVER THEIR SHARES TO NORO…
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!!
EVERYONE'S WORRIED SICK ABOUT THIS!!
DON'T YOU CARE ABOUT THE COMPANY EVEN A LITTLE BIT?!
YAMAOKA-SAN IS AN EMPLOYEE TOO, SO HE MUST OWN SHARES, RIGHT?!
株?

REALLY, YAMAOKA -SAN...

AH, I SOLD IT OFF AGES AGO JUST TO PAY OFF MY DEBTS.

おたたの

FORGET YAMAOKA.

OF COURSE, THE EMPLOYEES ARE READY TO SUPPORT PRESIDENT OHARA, BUT WITH HIM LOOKING SO WORN DOWN, THAT'S QUITE CONCERNING...

AT THIS RATE, HE HAS NO CHANCE IN TERMS OF HEALTH.

6

ウーム…

I WONDER WHAT'S PLAGUING HIM...

TL NOTE: *Forgive the weird machine glitch in panel three. I can't erase it without screwing up the art...*

I'VE HAD A THOROUGH CHECK-UP WITH THE DOCTOR, AND THERE'S NOTHING WRONG. IT'S SUMMER FATIGUE, BUT THE WORST KIND.

WELL THEN, SO THE REASON YOU LOOKED UNWELL WAS JUST HEAT EXHAUSTION, WAS IT?!

!

HONESTLY, A LITTLE COMPASSION WOULDN'T HURT, WOULD IT...?

NOW, NOW, O'HARA, DON'T GET TOO WORKED UP; IT'S NOT GOOD FOR YOUR HEALTH.

HA HA

IF I COLLAPSE, WHO WILL FIGHT NOROKINKICHI?

DON'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN THINKING IT'S JUST ORDINARY SUMMER FATIGUE; IT'S DANGEROUS! YOUR BODY MAY BE BREAKING DOWN, AND BY AUTUMN, YOU COULD JUST... DROP DEAD.

IS THAT REALLY THE BEST YOU CAN OFFER TO SOMEONE SUFFERING FROM SUMMER FATIGUE?!

WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!

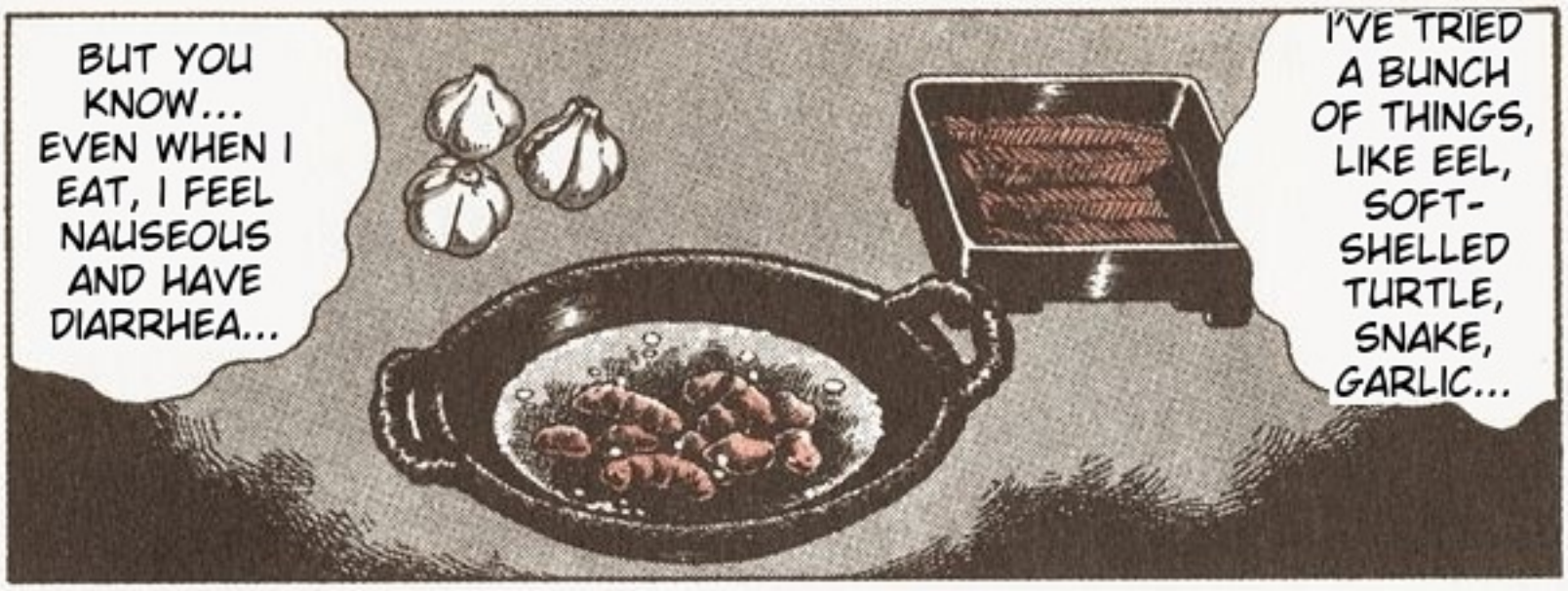
8

SOMETHING TO CURE SUMMER FATIGUE...

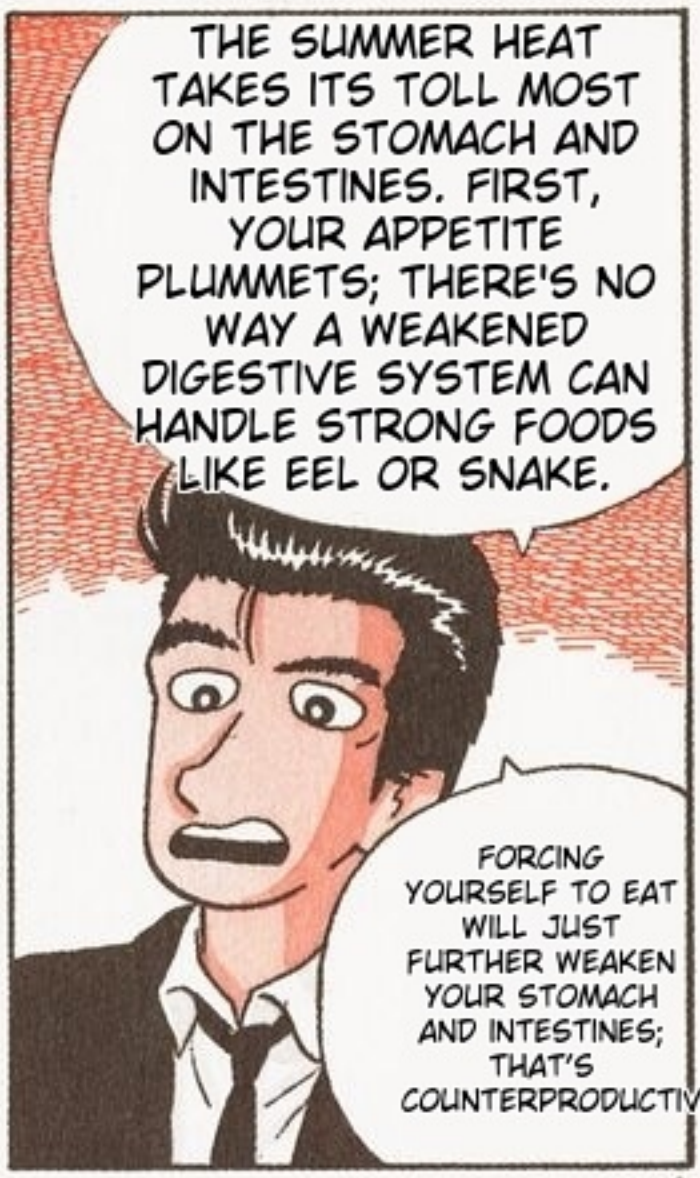
IS THERE ANY FOOD OR RECIPE THAT COULD HELP COMBAT SUMMER FATIGUE?

I CALLED YOU ALL HERE FOR A REASON... YOU'VE ENCOUNTERED A MYRIAD OF DISHES AND FLAVORS, HAVEN'T YOU?

DELICIOUS!


BUT YOU KNOW... EVEN WHEN I EAT, I FEEL NAUSEOUS AND HAVE DIARRHEA...
I'VE TRIED A BUNCH OF THINGS, LIKE EEL, SOFT-SHELLED TURTLE, SNAKE, GARLIC...

SO, WHAT SHOULD I DO THEN?


THE SUMMER HEAT TAKES ITS TOLL MOST ON THE STOMACH AND INTESTINES. FIRST, YOUR APPETITE PLUMMETS; THERE'S NO WAY A WEAKENED DIGESTIVE SYSTEM CAN HANDLE STRONG FOODS LIKE EEL OR SNAKE.
FORCING YOURSELF TO EAT WILL JUST FURTHER WEAKEN YOUR STOMACH AND INTESTINES; THAT'S COUNTERPRODUCTIVE!

I RECOMMEND STARTING WITH LIGHT, WARM, SOFT, AND EASILY DIGESTIBLE FOODS, GRADUALLY WORKING YOUR WAY UP TO MORE NOURISHING DISHES.
FIRST AND FOREMOST, YOU NEED TO FOCUS ON RECOVERY.

ISN'T A NICE BOWL OF RICE PORRIDGE THE BEST FOR US JAPANESE?
YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY BE TALKING ABOUT RICE PORRIDGE, RIGHT?!

I WOULD NEVER TOUCH THAT SLIMY, TASTELESS, CREEPY CONCOCTION!

NO WAY, I'M NOT TOUCHING THAT RICE PORRIDGE!

I WAS FORCED TO EAT IT DURING MY RECOVERY, AND THAT COMPLETELY TURNED ME OFF IT.

I NEVER LIKED IT, BUT I DEVELOPED AN INTENSE AVERSION AFTER GETTING FOOD POISONING AND BEING HOSPITALIZED ABOUT TWENTY YEARS AGO.

ESPECIALLY FOR A JAPANESE PERSON!

YOU REALLY HATE RICE PORRIDGE?

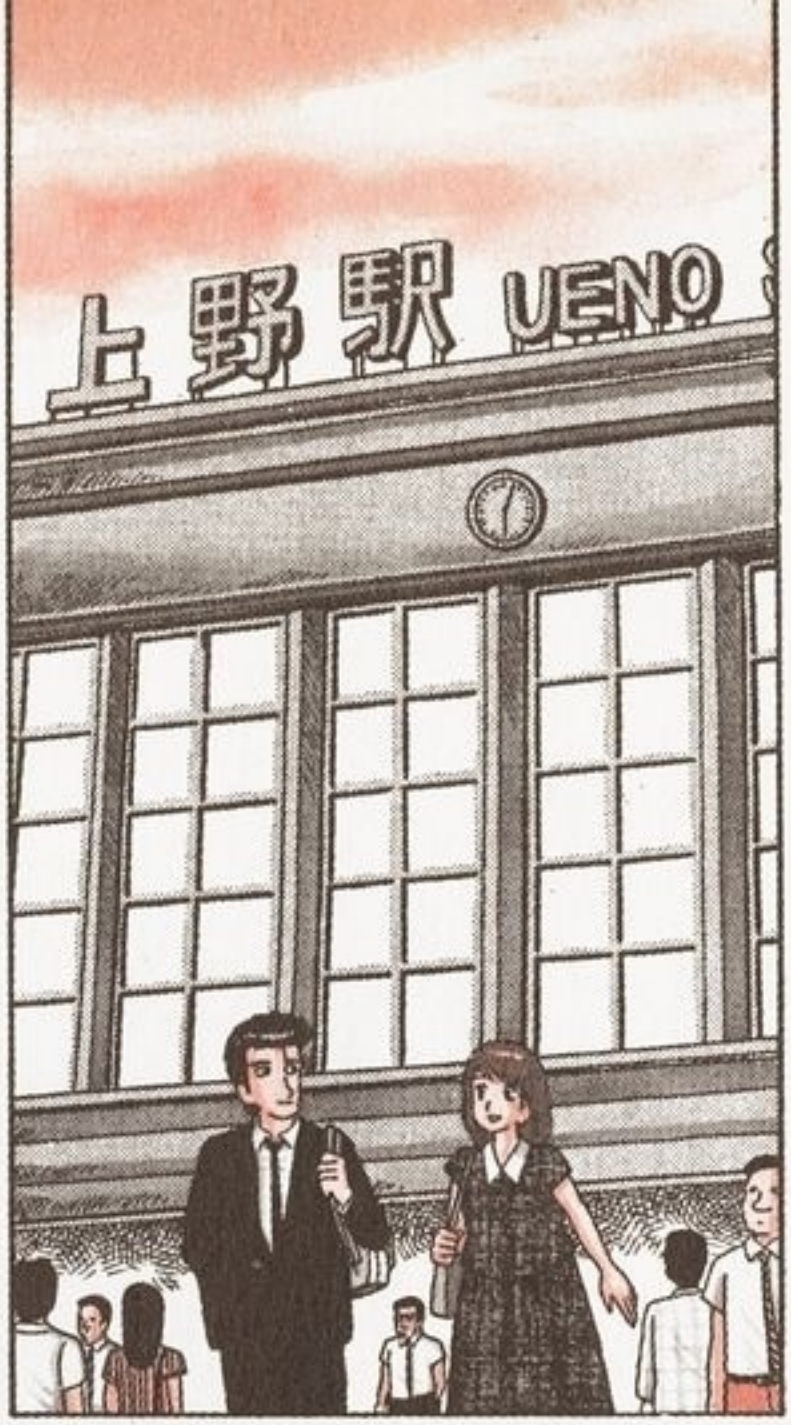
THAT OLD MAN IS STUBBORN!

OH, HOW UNFORTUNATE! YOU'VE TRULY NEVER TASTED DELICIOUS RICE PORRIDGE, HAVE YOU?

DELICIOUS RICE PORRIDGE? NO WAY! I ABSOLUTELY REFUSE TO EAT THAT!

DELICIOUS!

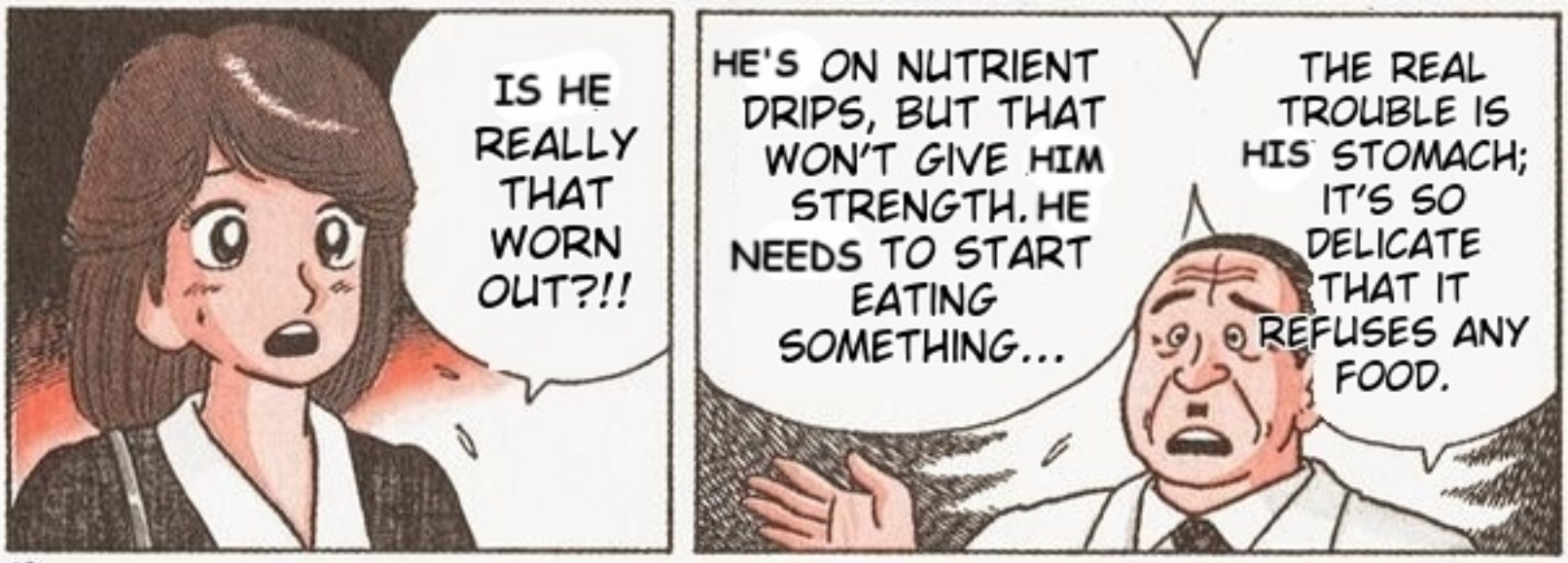
文化部


上野駅 UENO

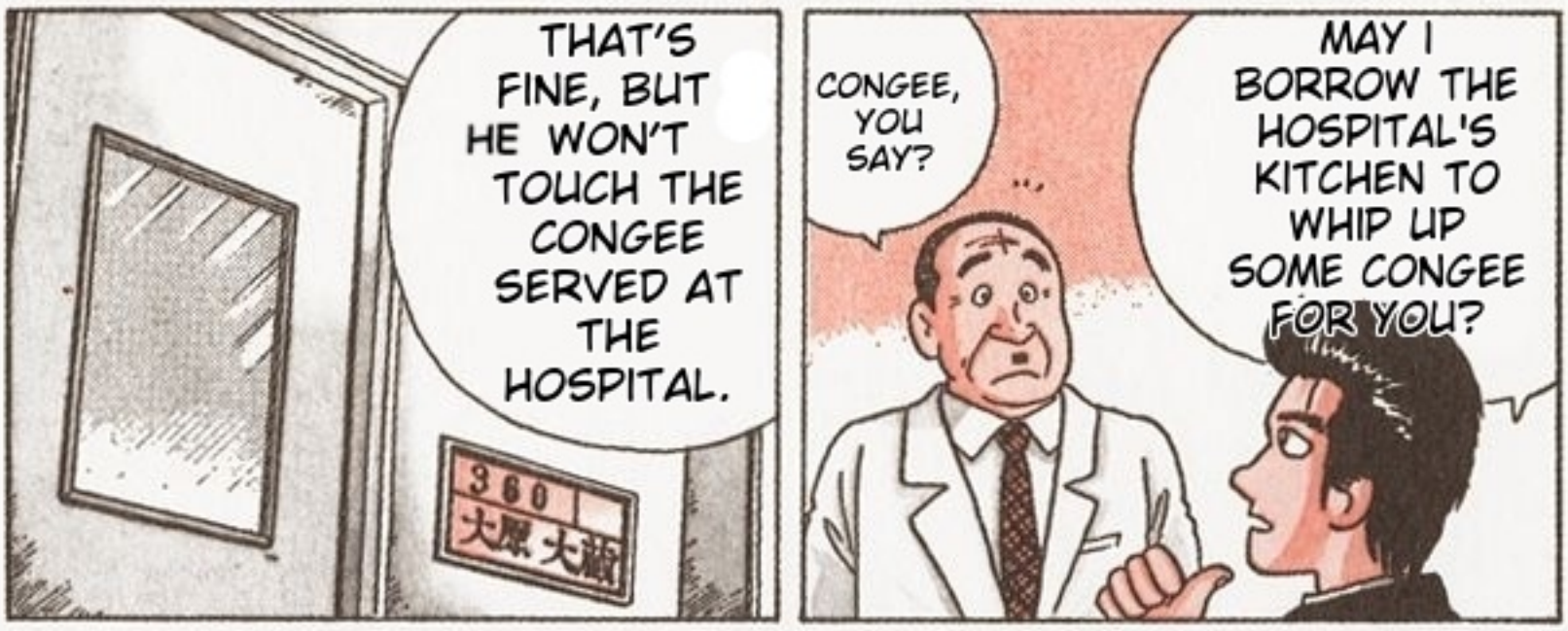
THE SITUATION IS GETTING DIRE, ISN'T IT?
WHAT?!

THE CHIEF OHARA HAS FINALLY BEEN WHISKED AWAY TO THE HOSPITAL!
WHERE ON EARTH HAVE YOU BEEN?!

HE SEEMS TO BE UNDER A LOT OF MENTAL PRESSURE AND IS PUSHING HIMSELF TO HIS LIMIT...
OTHERWISE, HE WOULDN'T BE THIS WEAK FROM THE SUMMER HEAT.
TOZAI HOSPITAL


IS HE REALLY THAT WORN OUT?!!
HE'S ON NUTRIENT DRIPS, BUT THAT WON'T GIVE HIM STRENGTH. HE NEEDS TO START EATING SOMETHING...
THE REAL TROUBLE IS HIS STOMACH; IT'S SO DELICATE THAT IT REFUSES ANY FOOD.

12


THAT'S FINE, BUT HE WON'T TOUCH THE CONGEE SERVED AT THE HOSPITAL.
CONGEE, YOU SAY?
...
MAY I BORROW THE HOSPITAL'S KITCHEN TO WHIP UP SOME CONGEE FOR YOU?

DELICIOUS!

I'VE TOLD YOU I CAN'T STAND PORRIDGE!!
コン コン
EVEN JUST A BITE OF PORRIDGE WOULD BE FINE.

YOU REALLY NEED TO EAT SOMETHING...

YOU CAN'T FORCE ME TO EAT WHAT I CAN'T!

YOU! AFTER GOING THROUGH ALL THAT TROUBLE TO BRING IT HERE FOR ME...

GET OUT! TAKE IT BACK! I TOLD YOU I WON'T EAT PORRIDGE, DIDN'T I?!

ALRIGHT, IT'S RICE PORRIDGE.

YAMAOKA-KUN! WHAT YOU BROUGHT OVER THERE COULD JUST POSSIBLY BE...

EXACTLY! I'M NOT FORCING YOU TO EAT IT. JUST GIVE IT A TASTE.

W- WAIT... TASTING THE PORRIDGE NOW IS...

NOW, NOW, BEFORE YOU GET ALL WORKED UP, JUST GIVE IT A TRY.

WHAT'S SO DIFFERENT ABOUT THIS HOSPITAL'S RICE PORRIDGE?!

THIS HOSPITAL'S PORRIDGE HAD A FUNKY, MUSTY SMELL, LIKE IT WAS HIDING SECRETS, BUT THIS PORRIDGE? NOT A WHIFF OF THAT! IT'S GOT A DELIGHTFUL, SWEET FRAGRANCE!

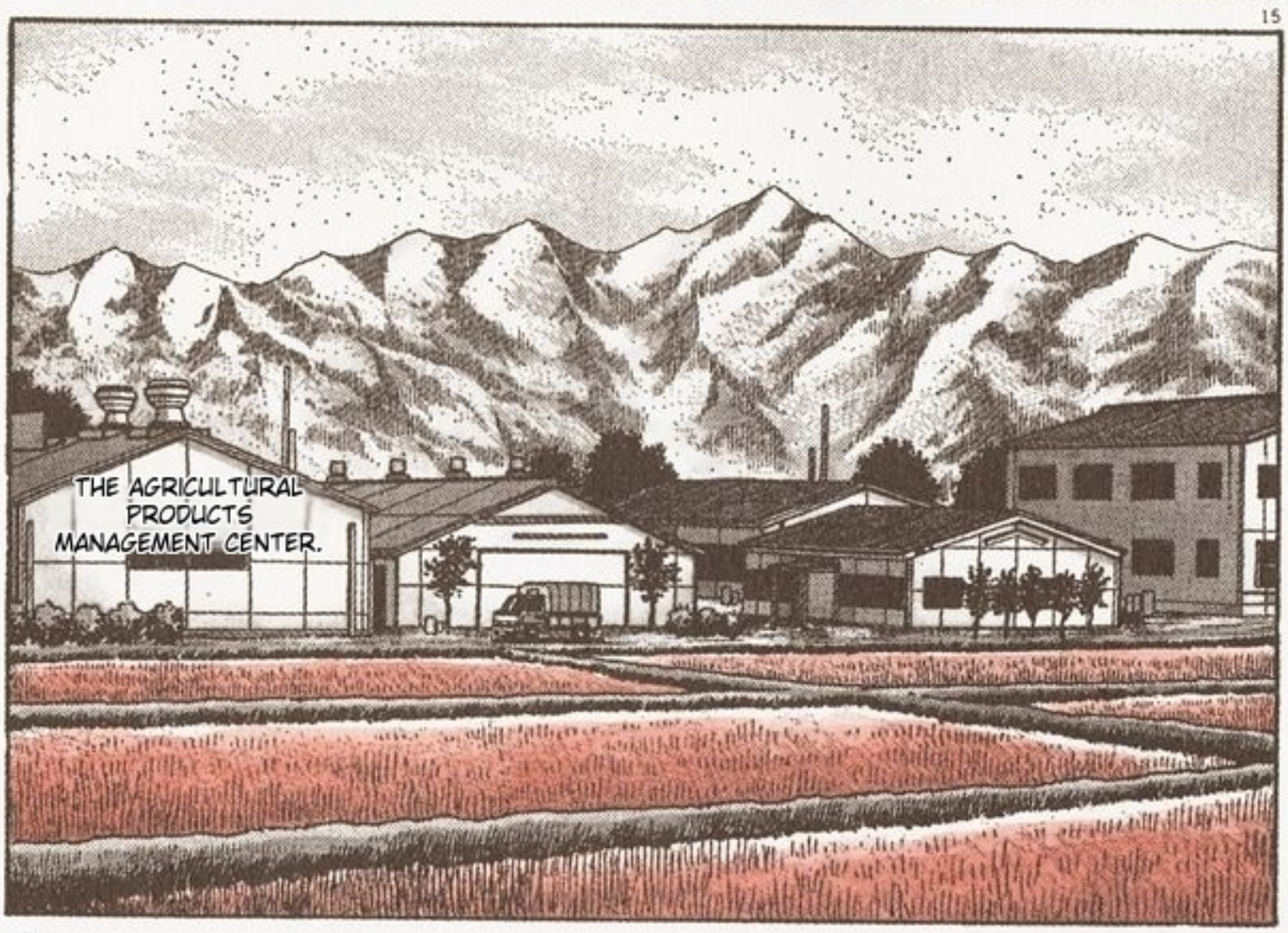
YEAH? WHAT A LOVELY SCENT...

MIYAGI PREFECTURE?

WE TRAVELED ALL THE WAY TO MIYAGI PREFECTURE JUST TO FIND THIS RICE!

WHAT IS IT?

THIS IS THE TRUE ESSENCE OF RICE'S AROMA.



AND YET, IF IT'S STORED IN A WAREHOUSE WITHOUT PROPER TEMPERATURE CONTROL, ITS QUALITY DETERIORATES. THE SMELL TURNS FOUL, AND THE FLAVOR TAKES A NOSEDIVE.

RICE, BEING A CROP, IS A FRESH FOOD PRODUCT.

SUMMER IS THE WORST SEASON FOR RICE; AFTER ALL, IT WAS HARVESTED LAST AUTUMN.

IT'S AIR-CONDITIONED IN HERE, WITH THE TEMPERATURE AND HUMIDITY PERFECTLY CONTROLLED.

IT'S SO COOL IN HERE,

宮城米

I JUST WISH THEY MANAGED THE RICE DISTRIBUTION PROCESS LIKE THIS EVERYWHERE...

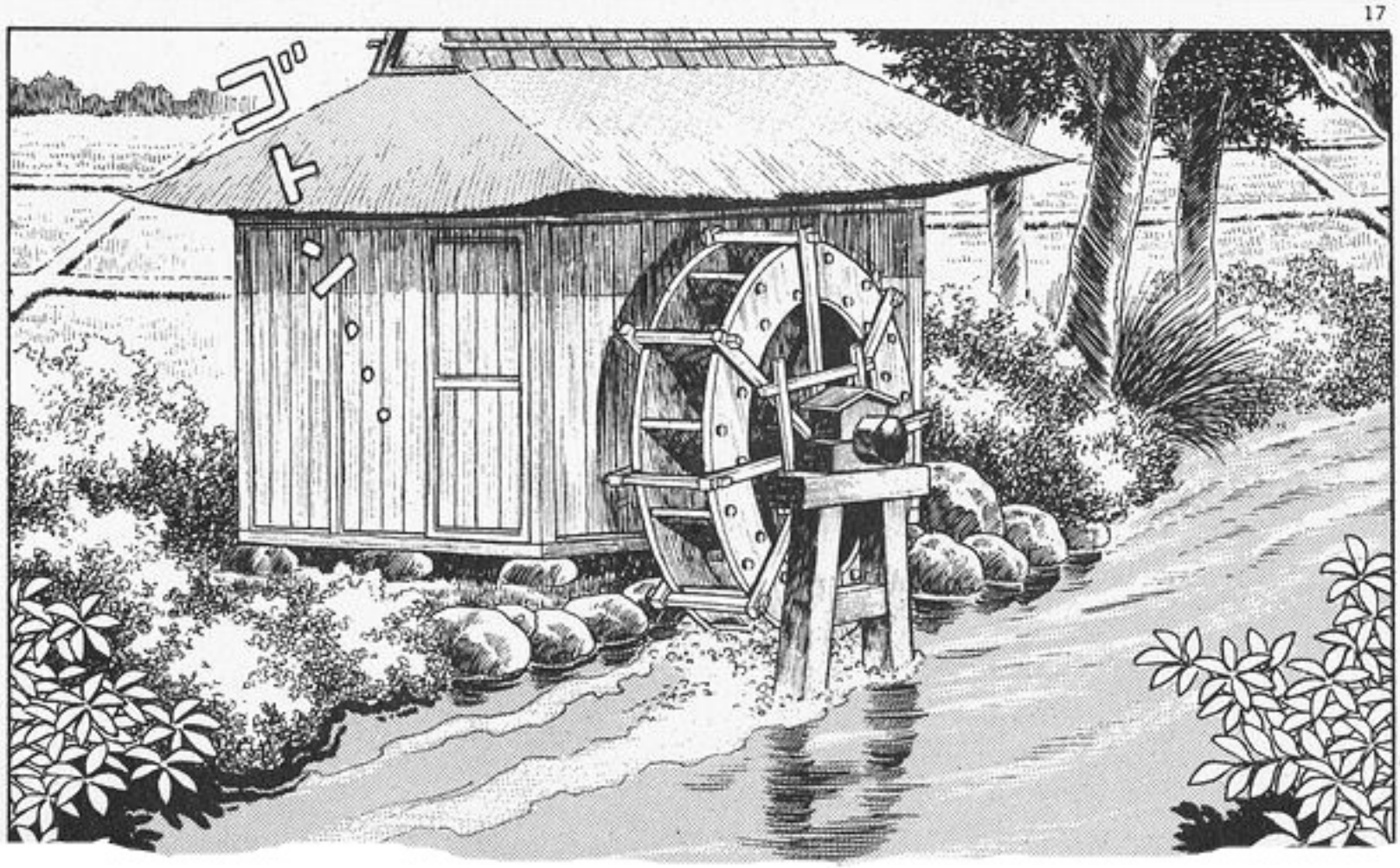
DELICIOUS!

SO, IT WAS PORRIDGE MADE FROM POORLY STORED, DEGRADED RICE AFTER ALL...
I SEE... IT WAS ALSO DURING SUMMER THAT I DEVELOPED A DEEP AVERSION TO PORRIDGE.

HUH?
THERE'S ANOTHER SECRET TO THE DELICIOUSNESS OF THIS RICE.

THE AROMA AND FLAVOR OF THE RICE COME ALIVE IN PORRIDGE, MAKING IT DISTINCT FROM REGULAR RICE.

THIS TRULY EMBODIES THE FRESH, EXQUISITE FLAVOR UNIQUE TO NEW RICE.
HMM, BUT IS IT REALLY JUST THE WAY THE RICE IS STORED THAT MAKES SUCH A DIFFERENCE?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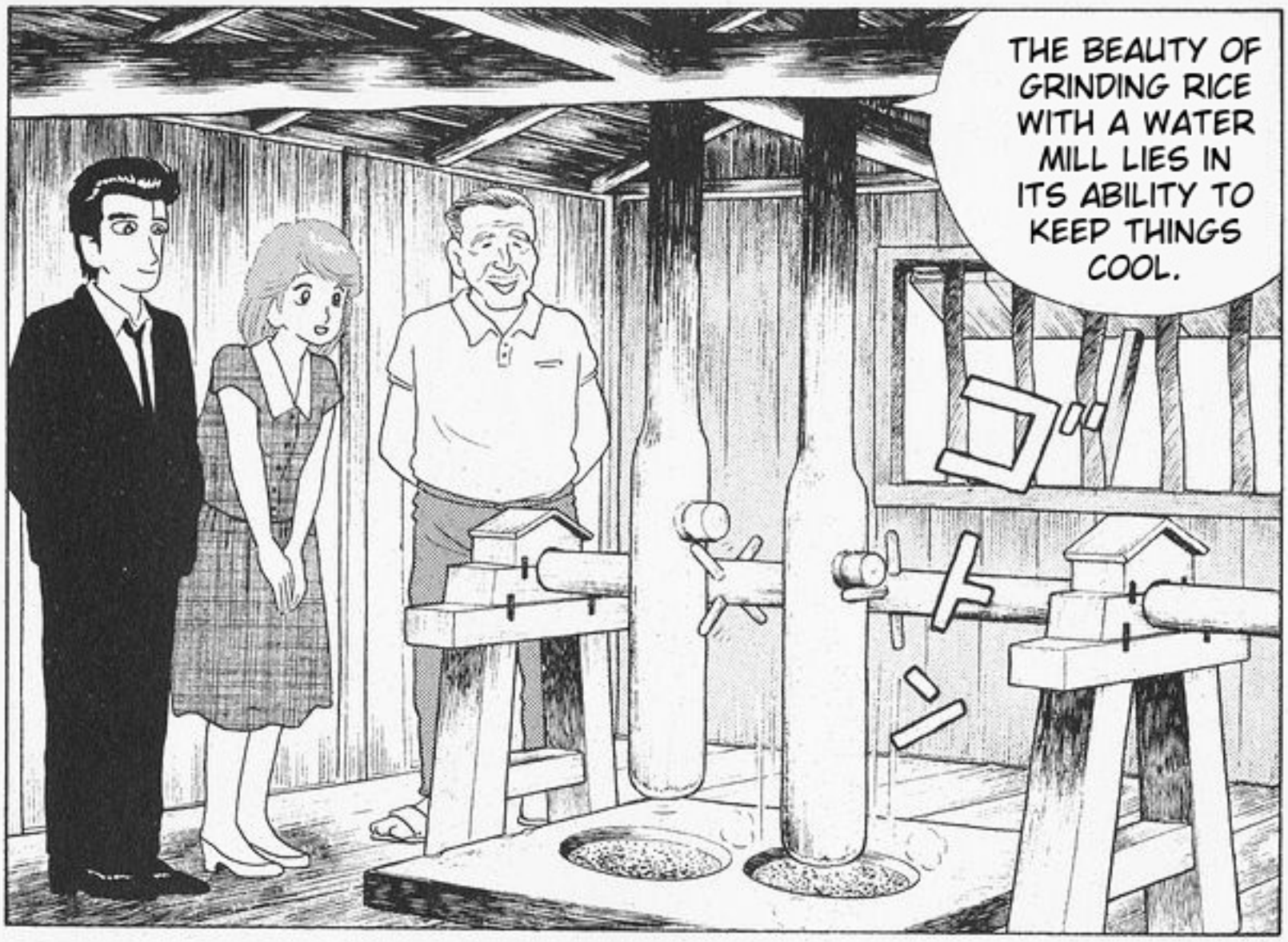
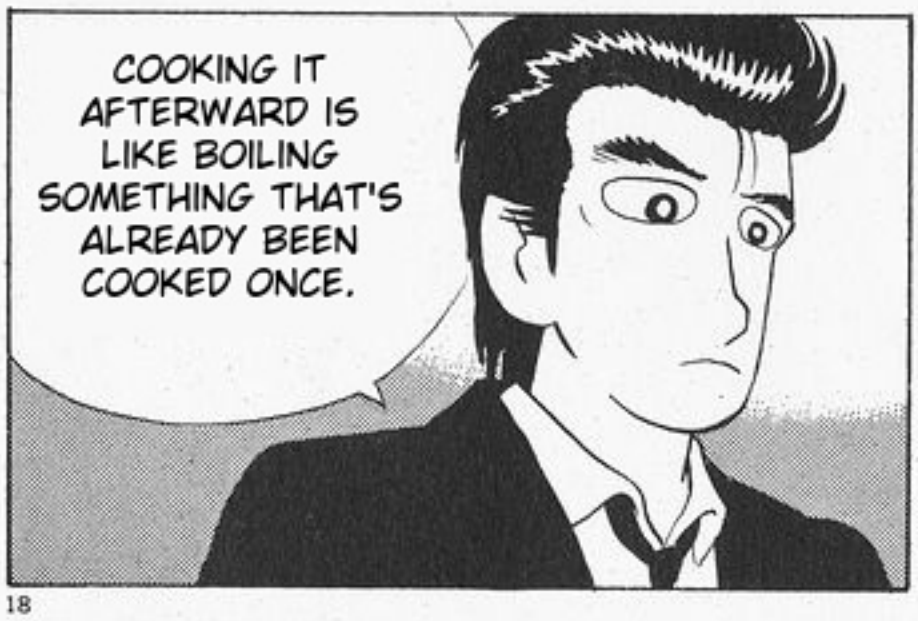
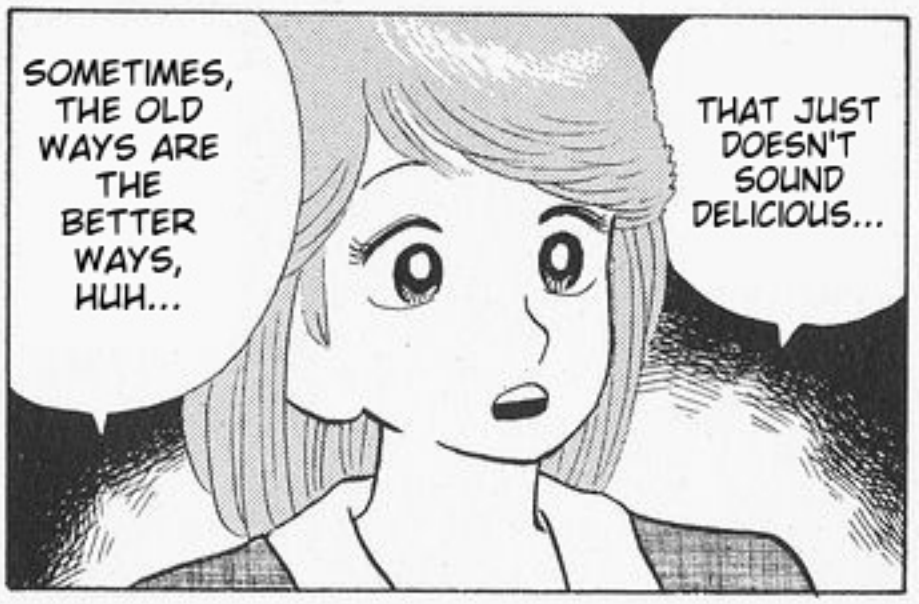
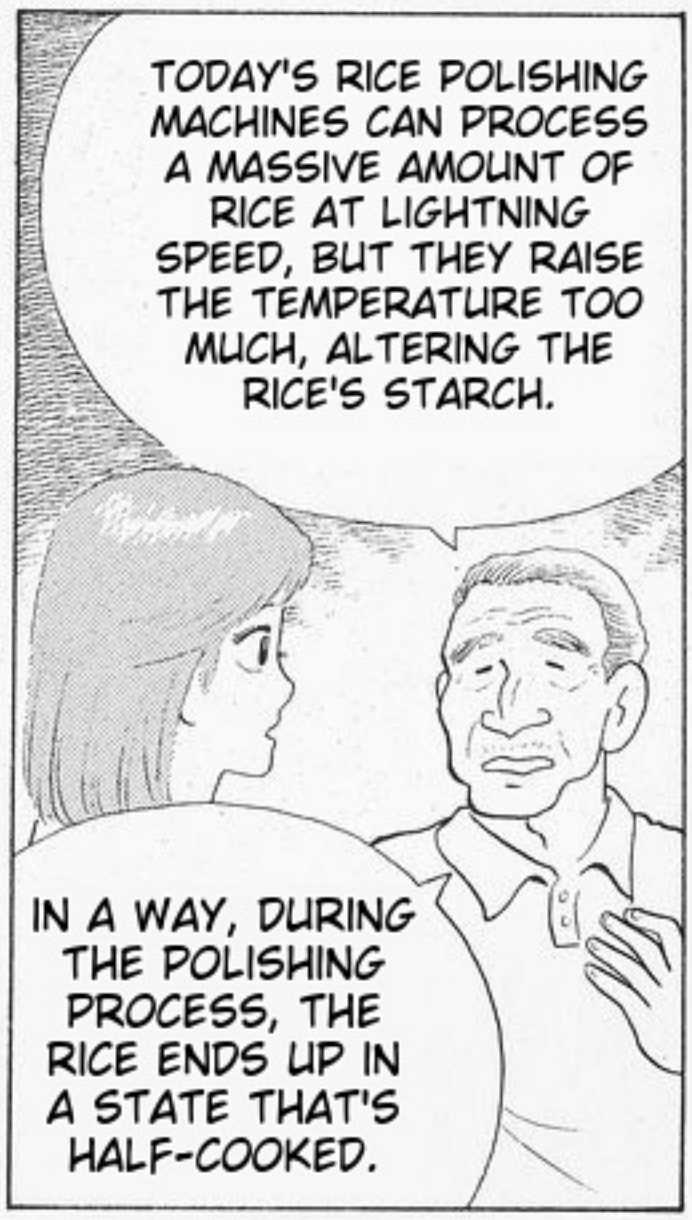

THE BEAUTY OF GRINDING RICE WITH A WATER MILL LIES IN ITS ABILITY TO KEEP THINGS COOL.

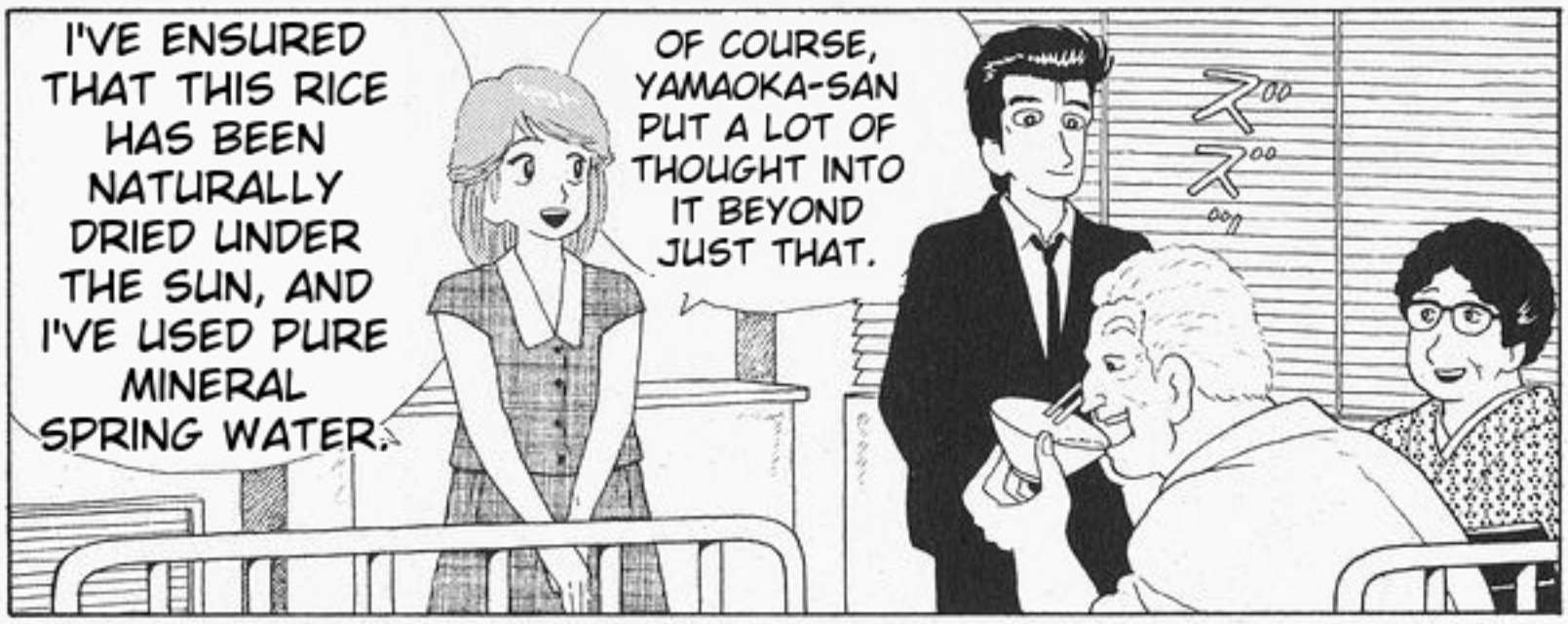

COOKING IT AFTERWARD IS LIKE BOILING SOMETHING THAT'S ALREADY BEEN COOKED ONCE.

18


SOMETIMES, THE OLD WAYS ARE THE BETTER WAYS, HUH...
THAT JUST DOESN'T SOUND DELICIOUS...


TODAY'S RICE POLISHING MACHINES CAN PROCESS A MASSIVE AMOUNT OF RICE AT LIGHTNING SPEED, BUT THEY RAISE THE TEMPERATURE TOO MUCH, ALTERING THE RICE'S STARCH.
IN A WAY, DURING THE POLISHING PROCESS, THE RICE ENDS UP IN A STATE THAT'S HALF-COOKED.

DELICIOUS!

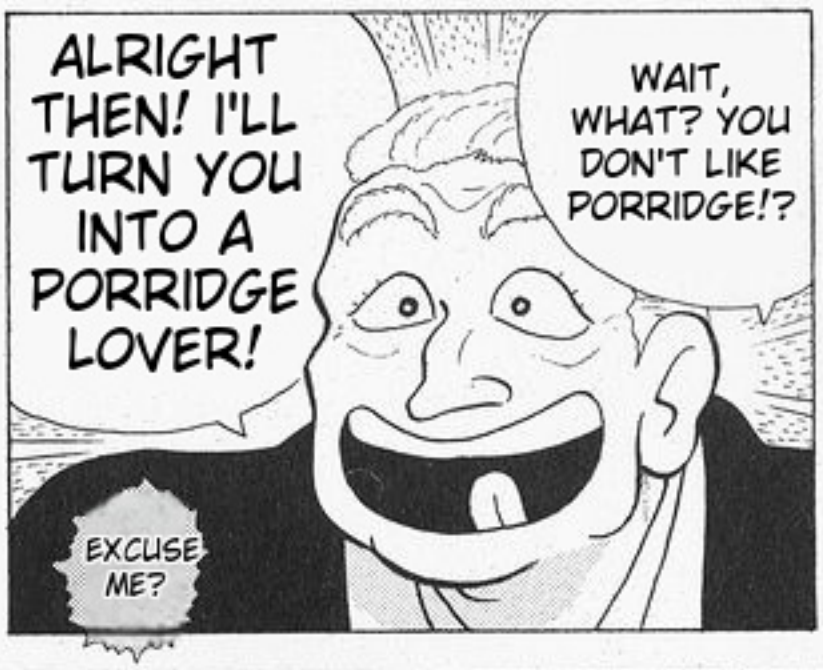

I'VE ENSURED THAT THIS RICE HAS BEEN NATURALLY DRIED UNDER THE SUN, AND I'VE USED PURE MINERAL SPRING WATER.
OF COURSE, YAMAOKA-SAN PUT A LOT OF THOUGHT INTO IT BEYOND JUST THAT.
Z
Z
THERE'S NOTHING MORE TRAGIC THAN A BOWL OF POORLY MADE PORRIDGE.
WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT EVEN A SIMPLE BOWL OF PORRIDGE COULD TASTE THIS DIVINE?
I SEE, IF YOU USE GENUINE INGREDIENTS AND THE RIGHT COOKING METHODS, THEN...

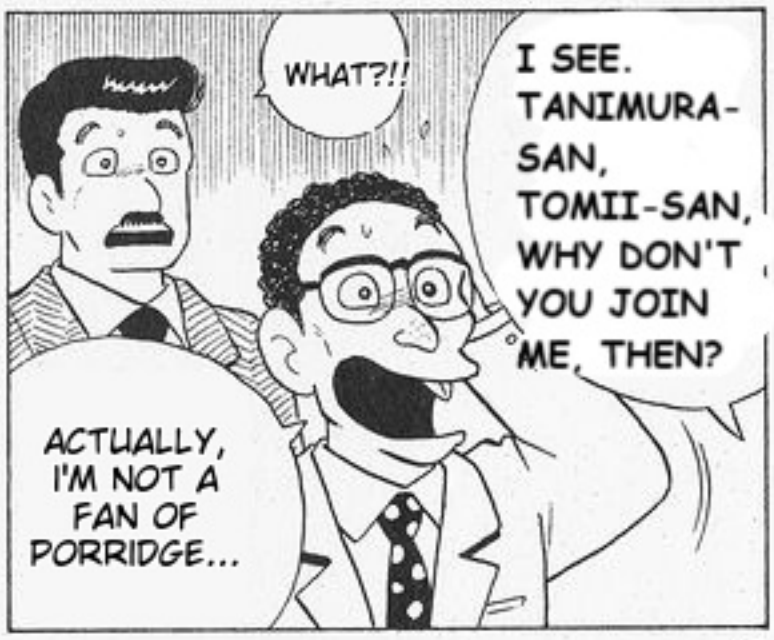
HOW CAN I POSSIBLY EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE FOR THIS?
MMM, THIS IS DELICIOUS! MAY I HAVE A SECOND HELPING?!
OH, NOT AT ALL! IF THIS HELPS SOMEONE SOFTEN THEIR STUBBORN WAYS, THAT'S MORE THAN ENOUGH.

SEEING THAT THE SHARES OBTAINED FROM THE SHIMOHATA FAMILY WERE FAR TOO FEW TO WIELD ANY REAL POWER, MR. NORO ABANDONED HIS PLANS TO SEIZE CONTROL OF THE EAST-WEST NEWSPAPER AND SOLD HIS HOLDINGS TO BOTH THE OHARA FAMILY AND THE EMPLOYEE STOCK OWNERSHIP ASSOCIATION, BRINGING THIS COMMOTION TO A CLOSE.

THANKS TO THE UNWAVERING EFFORTS OF OHARA, WHO TRIUMPHED OVER SUMMER FATIGUE, THE KIMUKAWA FAMILY HAS FIRMLY REFUSED TO YIELD THEIR SHARES TO NORO.

DELICIOUS!





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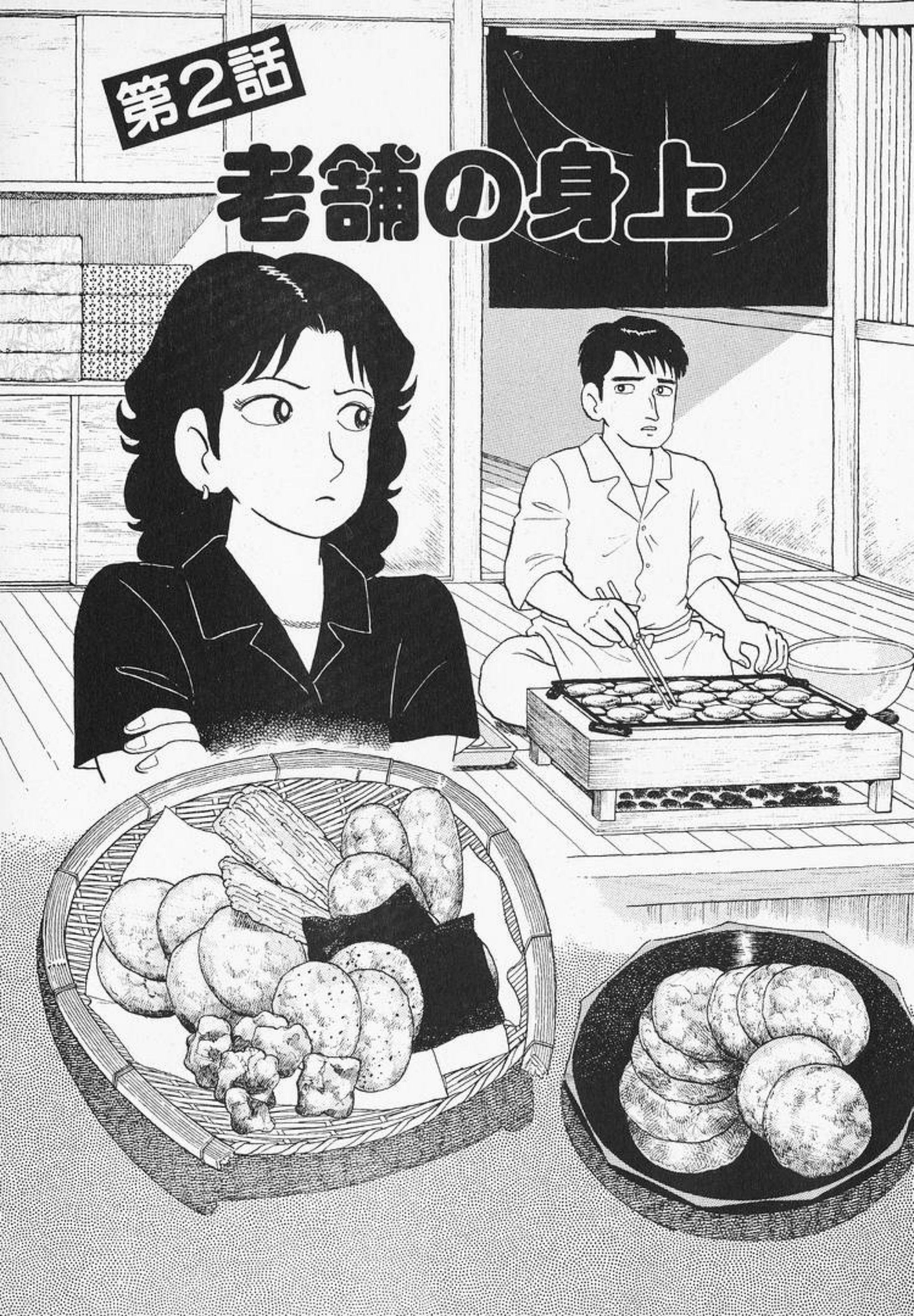
第2話

老舗の身上



AND HERE COMES MITANI-SAN BACK TO THE OFFICE. EVEN AFTER TYING THE KNOT, SHE'S DECIDED TO KEEP ON WORKING.

AFTER TAKING A LEAVE FOR HER WEDDING, HANAMURA-SAN... OOPS, I SHOULD BE CALLING HER MITANI-SAN NOW, RIGHT!

ISN'T IT ALL A BIT OF FUN?

SO, HOW'S THE NEWLYWED LIFE TREATING YOU?

BUT, YOU KNOW, THINGS HAVE BEEN A BIT... COMPLICATED.

Y-YEAH..."

2

IT'S NOT EXACTLY A PROBLEM, BUT...

OH, IS THERE SOMETHING BOTHERING YOU?

HEY, IT'S HIRAYADANI SANPO!
三谷

WELL, THE TRUTH IS...

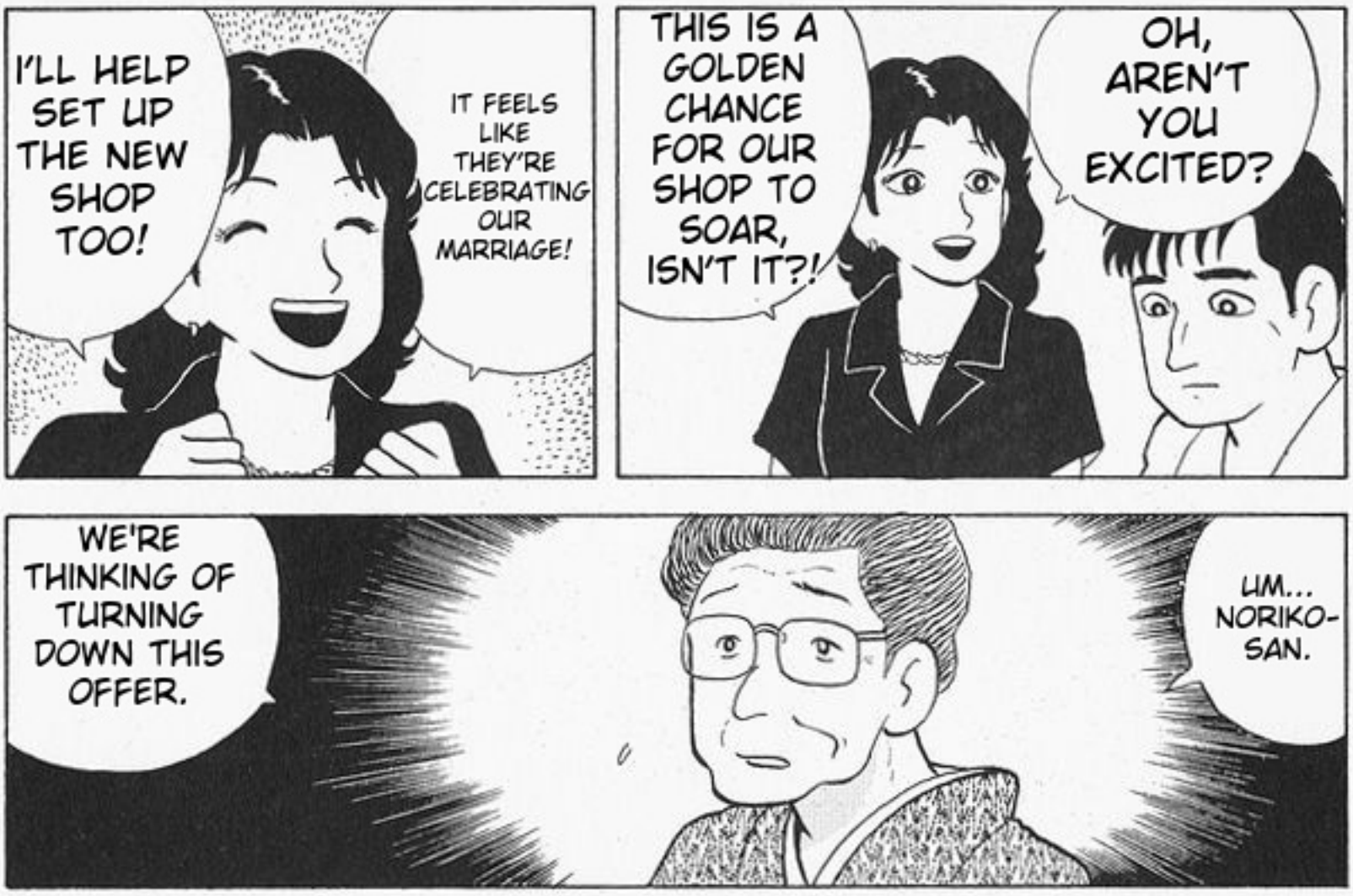
OH MY! DID TAKOEYA DEPARTMENT STORE REALLY ASK US TO SET UP A SHOP IN THE FAMOUS SHOPPING DISTRICT?!

3

OUR STORE'S REPUTATION WILL SOAR TO NEW HEIGHTS!
WOW! TAKOEYA IS THE TOP DEPARTMENT STORE IN ALL OF JAPAN, RIGHT?

WELL, YEAH, THAT'S TRUE, BUT...

YEAH...



TL NOTE: SORRY, THE MACHINE CUT OFF HER EYE. I'M NOT AN ARTIST, I CAN'T FIX IT... MUGIWARA'S TL WILL NO DOUBT FIX IT WHEN HE GETS TO THIS CHAPTER.

DELICIOUS!

BUT THEY SAY WE CAN'T USE CHARCOAL AT THE DEPARTMENT STORE, SO WE'LL HAVE TO GRILL THEM AT HOME AND DELIVER THEM...

SO IT'S NOT FEASIBLE TO SERVE FRESHLY BAKED ONES ON THE SAME DAY.

PLUS, THE RICE CRACKERS WE BAKE THAT DAY SELL OUT BY THE END OF THE DAY, SO CUSTOMERS ALWAYS GET TO ENJOY THEM HOT AND FRESH.

OUR RICE CRACKERS ARE CAREFULLY GRILLED ONE BY ONE BY HAND, YOU KNOW.

THAT MEANS THEY'LL GET SOGGY, AND THE FLAVOR WILL INEVITABLY SUFFER, AND I JUST CAN'T STAND THAT.

5

BUT THERE'S ACTUALLY ANOTHER ISSUE AT HAND.

WELL, I DID THINK ABOUT THAT...

WE CAN JUST WRAP EACH FRESHLY BAKED RICE CRACKER IN CELLOPHANE OR SOMETHING TO KEEP THE MOISTURE AT BAY.

THAT'S A PROBLEM THAT CAN BE SOLVED EASILY!

WE'VE ONLY BEEN MAKING SOY SAUCE-FLAVORED SENBEI SO FAR..."

BUT, THEY'RE SUGGESTING WE TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPAND OUR PRODUCT RANGE."

WELL, THAT MEANS —"

THEY WANT US TO INTRODUCE A MEDLEY OF TREATS LIKE ARARE, SEAWEED-WRAPPED SENBEI, AND THOSE DELIGHTFUL SHISO-INFUSED SNACKS!"

THAT ALONE WON'T CUT IT IN THE BUSTLING DEPARTMENT STORE'S GOURMET SECTION!"

6

WE NEED TO EMBRACE NEW FLAVORS AND LET OUR BUSINESS SOAR!"

IT'S ABSURD TO THINK THAT, HAVING ONLY CREATED ONE FLAVOR UNTIL NOW, WE SHOULD SHY AWAY FROM EXPLORING NEW TASTES!

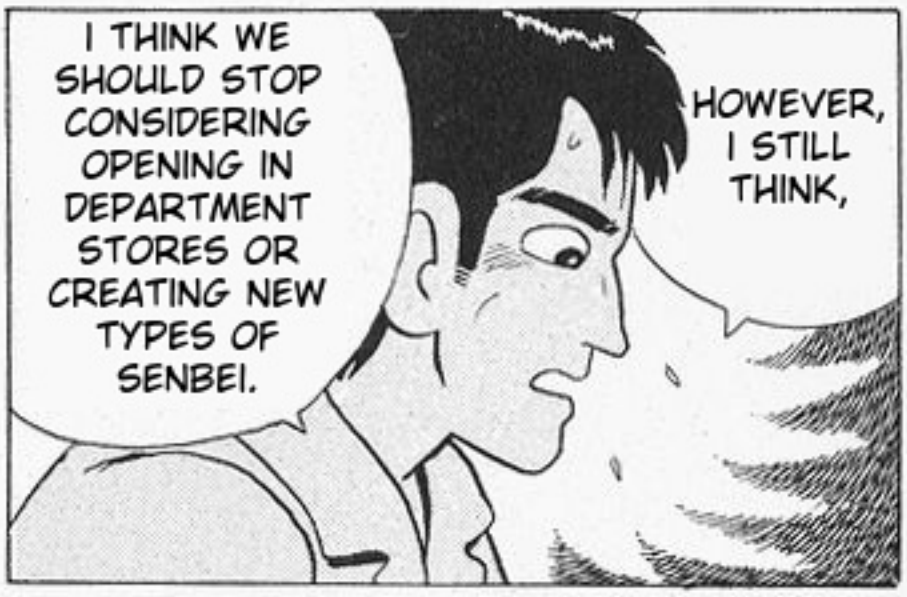
BESIDES, THAT GOES AGAINST OUR CORE BUSINESS PHILOSOPHY."

NEW FLAVORS OF SENBEI, YOU SAY?"

THAT'S UTTERLY RIDICULOUS! I BELIEVE WE SHOULD BE FOCUSING ON CRAFTING NEW FLAVORS OF SENBEI!"

I BELIEVE WE NEED TO EXPAND THE SHOP AND EARN FUNDS TO CREATE NEW FLAVORS!
THAT'S WHY WE SHOULD STRIVE TO CREATE NEW FLAVORS,
屋谷三
前手
餅焼

OH, AND WHY IS THAT?
I DON'T SEE EXPANDING THE SHOP AS A GOOD THING!
IF WE STICK TO JUST THE SAME OLD FLAVOR, WHO'S TO SAY IT WON'T GET TIRESOME?


I THINK WE SHOULD STOP CONSIDERING OPENING IN DEPARTMENT STORES OR CREATING NEW TYPES OF SENBEI.
HOWEVER, I STILL THINK,

YOU HAVE A POINT, NORIKO, BUT...

A SHOP DOESN'T JUST NEED TO BE BIGGER.
I DON'T THINK GROWTH IS NECESSARY.

WHY NOT?!

7

BUT IF THAT'S THE CASE, THE SHOP WILL NEVER GROW!
IT'S BEEN OUR POLICY SINCE WAY BACK.

WAIT, PLEASE!

NORIKO-SAN...

I NEVER IMAGINED HE'D BE SATISFIED WITH JUST MAINTAINING THE STATUS QUO; WHAT A LACKLUSTER SPIRIT!

WELL, I'M JUST FLABBERGASTED.

OH DEAR, MY...

IT'S YOUR MOTHER'S FAULT THAT YOU ... TURNED OUT TO BE SUCH A SPINELESS PERSON!

8

HOW COULD YOU SAY SUCH A THING ABOUT MY MOTHER?!

東西新聞社
YOU ACTUALLY TOLD MITANI'S MOTHER THAT?!
HEHE...
DON'T JUST SIT BACK AND ENJOY THIS LIKE IT'S SOMEONE ELSE'S DRAMA!
OH NO, RIGHT AT THE START OF THEIR MARRIAGE, THE BATTLE BETWEEN THE BRIDE AND MOTHER-IN-LAW BEGINS!
EVER SINCE THEN, THINGS HAVE BEEN SO AWKWARD AT HOME...
BUT YOU SEE, I REALLY WANT TO EXPAND THE SHOP INTO SOMETHING AMAZING!
I REALIZE I MAY HAVE GONE TOO FAR, AND I'M REFLECTING ON THAT.
9
I THINK TRYING OTHER FLAVORS CAN BE DELIGHTFUL TOO...
WHEN IT COMES TO RICE CRACKERS, IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT SOY SAUCE FLAVOR;
THAT'S DEFINITELY TRUE.
AFTER ALL, WE'RE STILL YOUNG, AND STAYING IN THE SAME PLACE FEELS DULL TO ME.

I'M WORRIED THAT IF WE ONLY HAVE ONE FLAVOR OF RICE CRACKERS, WE MIGHT GET LEFT BEHIND SOMEDAY...

I REALLY WANT TO EMPHASIZE THAT, BECAUSE THE WORLD IS CHANGING FASTER THAN EVER!

BUT FROM WHAT I HEAR, BOTH MITANI-SAN AND HIS MOTHER SEEM QUITE STUBBORN, DON'T THEY?

HMM...

IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE IN A REAL PICKLE! IF ONLY SOMEONE COULD HELP...

HUH?!?!

ギク

YAMAOKA-SAN, THE LADY YOU WERE WITH LAST NIGHT WAS ABSOLUTELY STUNNING!

THAT'S RIGHT, THERE WAS SOMEONE WHO COULD HELP US IN TIMES LIKE THIS!

THEY SAY HE'S ONLY USEFUL IN TIMES LIKE THESE!

MAKE SURE TO USE YOUR WORDS PRECISELY!

DELICIOUS!

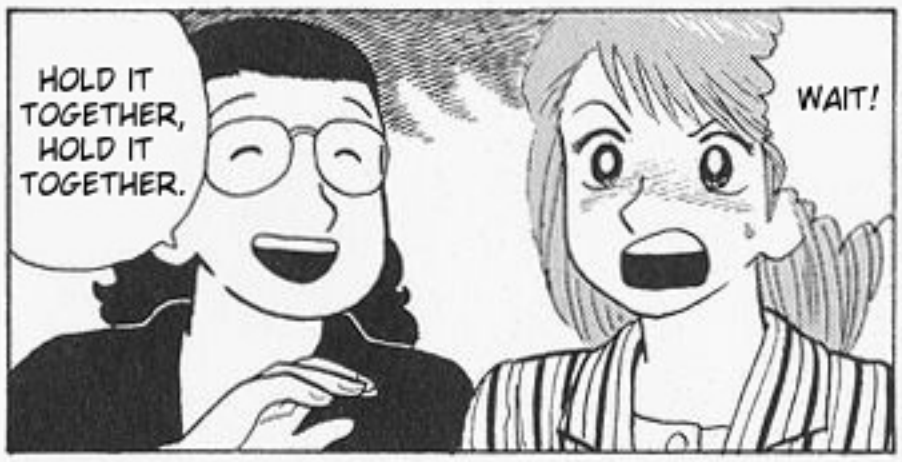
NO NEED TO MAKE EXCUSES! JUST COME OVER HERE!

WAIT, YOU, YAMAOKA, WITH A GIRL!?!?

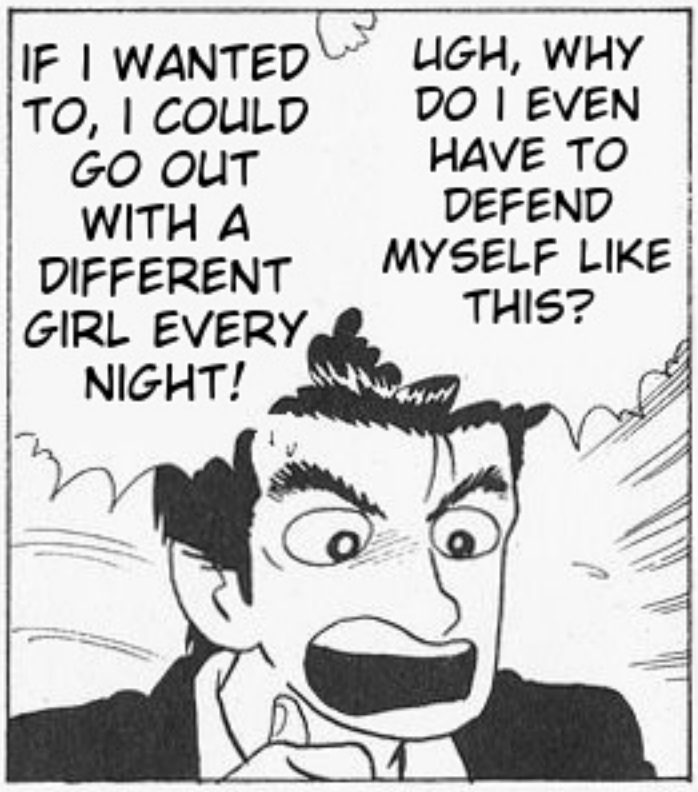
SHE'S GRADUATING NEXT YEAR AND AIMING FOR A JOB AT A NEWSPAPER,
SHE'S THE YOUNGER SISTER OF MY SENPAI,
SO, MY SENPAI ASKED ME FOR SOME ADVICE...

IT SOUNDS LIKE A DATE!!!

IT'S NOT A DATE, I SWEAR!
OH, I SEE... SO IT WAS A DATE WITH A COLLEGE GIRL...


HOLD IT TOGETHER, HOLD IT TOGETHER.
WAIT!

OKAY, OKAY.


IF I WANTED TO, I COULD GO OUT WITH A DIFFERENT GIRL EVERY NIGHT!
UGH, WHY DO I EVEN HAVE TO DEFEND MYSELF LIKE THIS?

WE'RE LACKING THE DRIVE TO GROW BIGGER AND BOLDER!

MR. MITANI SEEMS TO BE RESTING ON THE LAURELS OF THE SHOP'S LONG-STANDING REPUTATION,

HMM... SO MITANI-YA IS THINKING OF VENTURING INTO DEPARTMENT STORES WITH SNACKS OTHER THAN SOY SAUCE-FLAVORED RICE CRACKERS...

THAT'S WHAT FRUSTRATES ME!

EXACTLY! THERE'S NO COURAGE TO EMBARK ON NEW VENTURES AND EXPAND THE BUSINESS.

YES, I'D SAY IT'S COURAGE FOR SURE.

DRIVE?

ARE YOU SAYING MR. MITANI LACKS COURAGE?

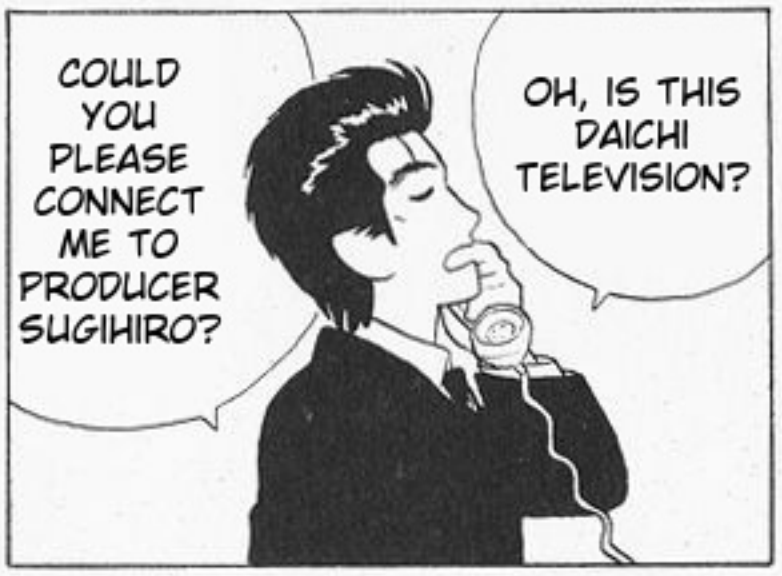
12

ALRIGHT, I SEE WHERE YOU'RE COMING FROM.

HMMM...

DELICIOUS!

?


COULD YOU PLEASE CONNECT ME TO PRODUCER SUGIHIRO?
OH, IS THIS DAICHI TELEVISION?

HMM, THIS COULD ACTUALLY WORK OUT QUITE WELL!!
A TRANSFORMATION STRATEGY FOR AN OLD-SCHOOL RICE CRACKER SHOP, HUH...

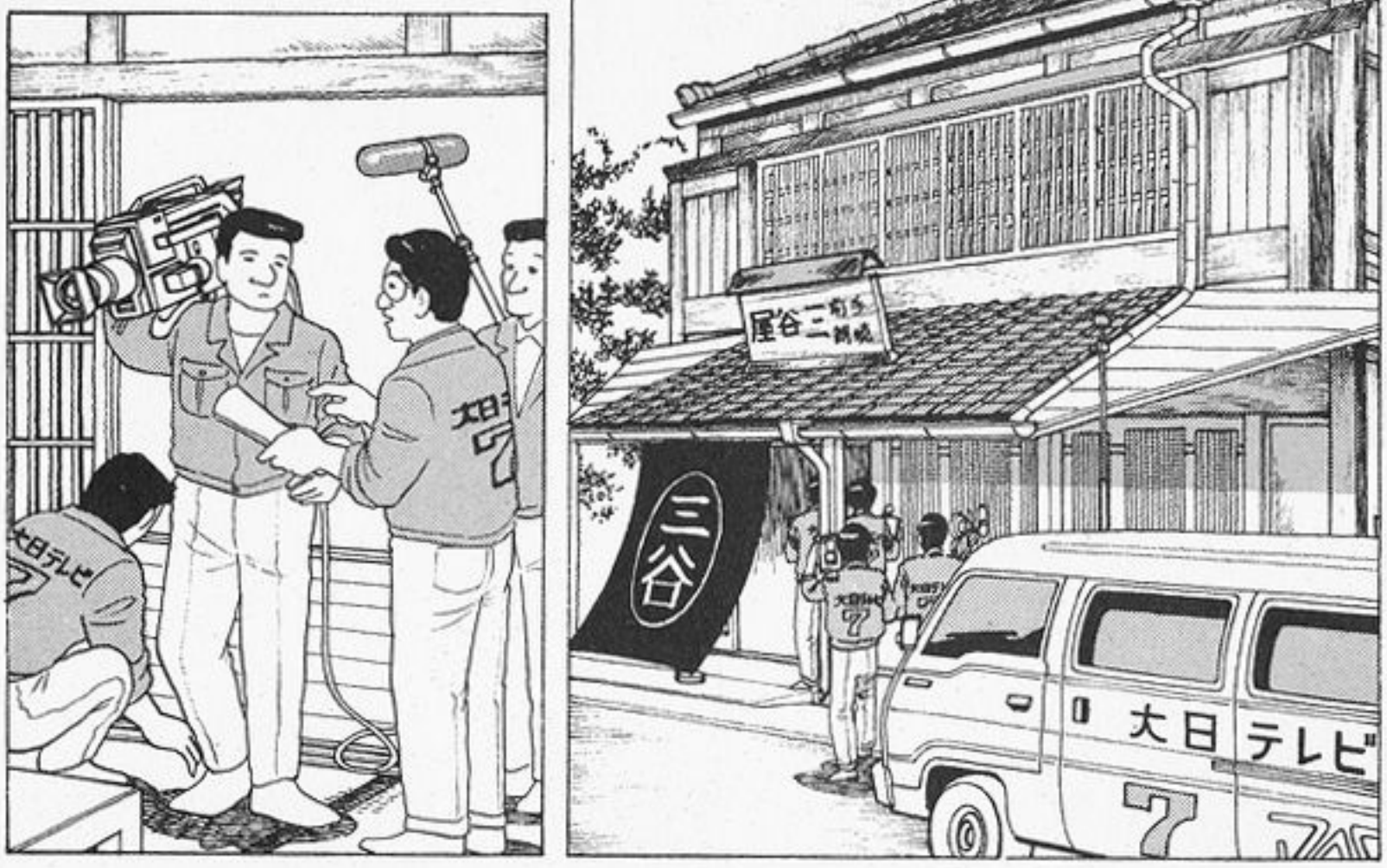
I SEE, I SEE!
LATELY, DIGGING INTO THESE HUMBLE, RELATABLE THEMES HAS REALLY DELIGHTED THE VIEWERS!

LEAVE IT TO ME!
ALRIGHT THEN, I'LL LEAVE IT TO YOU, SENPAI.

THAT'S FINE!
I'VE GOT SOME IDEAS BREWING OVER HERE!

YES, OF COURSE.
MRS. MITANI, I'M COUNTING ON YOU TO HANDLE THE SHOP!

I DON'T THINK WE NEED THE TELEVISION STATION, THOUGH.
OH REALLY... I WONDER IF THIS STRATEGY WILL BE EFFECTIVE...?


大日テレビ
三谷
大日テレビ
7

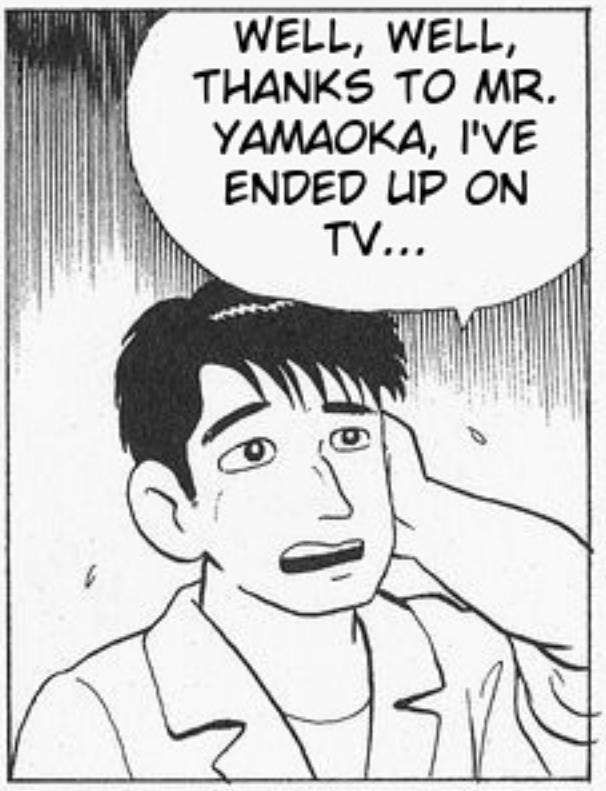
BUT IT'LL PROMOTE THE SHOP...
I REALLY DON'T LIKE BEING ON TV!
大日テレビ
7

14

OH, COME ON... YOU'VE GOT ZERO ENERGY!

IF MORE CUSTOMERS COME IN, WE WON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO SELL!
WE DON'T NEED ANY ADVERTISING!

DELICIOUS!

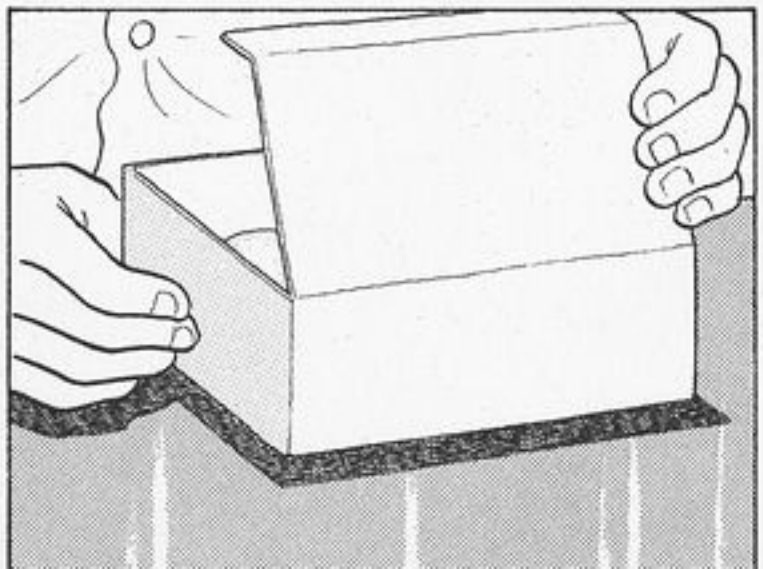

WELL, WELL, THANKS TO MR. YAMAOKA, I'VE ENDED UP ON TV...

OH, MR. YAMAOKA.
HEY THERE! GOOD AFTERNOON!

ROLL THE CAMERAS!
HEY NOW, JUST WHOSE IDEA WAS THIS?

I'M SORRY, BUT PRODUCER SUGIHIRO IS A SENIOR FROM MY UNIVERSITY, AND WHEN HE ASKS FOR A FAVOR, IT'S HARD TO SAY NO.

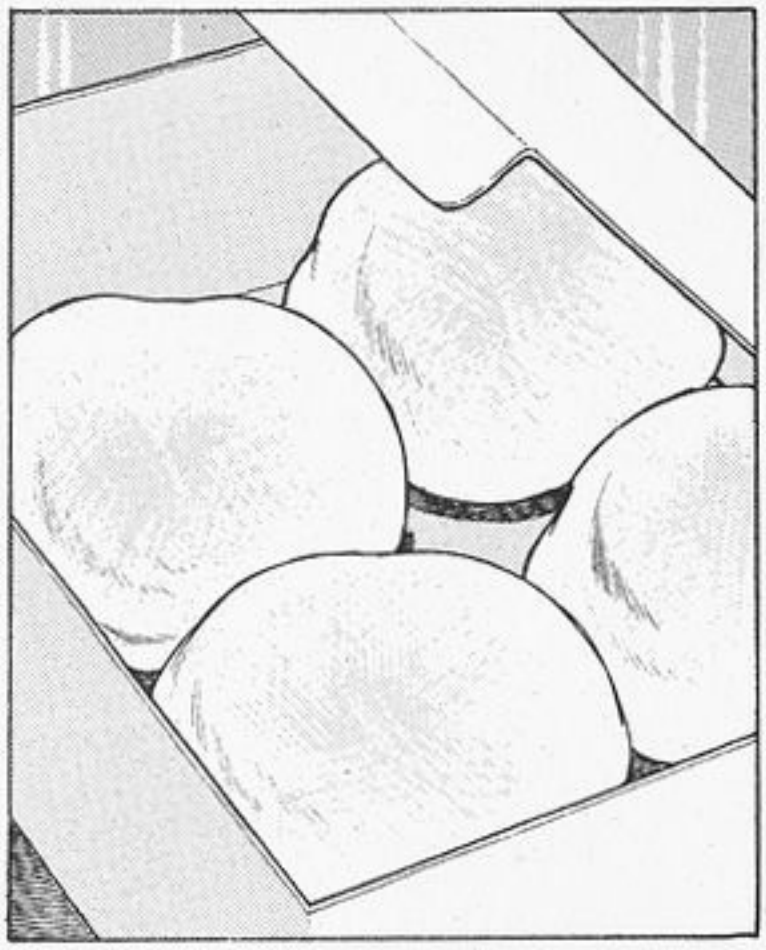
OH REALLY? I WONDER WHAT IT IS? SOME UNUSUAL SNACKS...?



PLEASE, DIG IN!
TODAY, I'VE BROUGHT A RATHER UNIQUE TREAT.
WELL, THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

IT MAY NOT LOOK LIKE MUCH AT FIRST GLANCE, BUT...

OH, MY SWEET DAIFUKU!



INSIDE THE SWEET RED BEAN PASTE, THERE'S A WHOLE STRAWBERRY WAITING TO SURPRISE YOU!

THE CONTENTS HAVE CHANGED!

IT'S CALLED ICHIGO DAIFUKU! IT ALL STARTED AT A SHOP IN TOKYO, AND IT BECAME SUCH A SENSATION THAT NOW YOU CAN FIND IT BEING LOVINGLY RECREATED ALL OVER JAPAN!

THERE'S A STRAWBERRY INSIDE!

EH?!

DON'T SAY THAT, JUST GIVE IT A TRY!

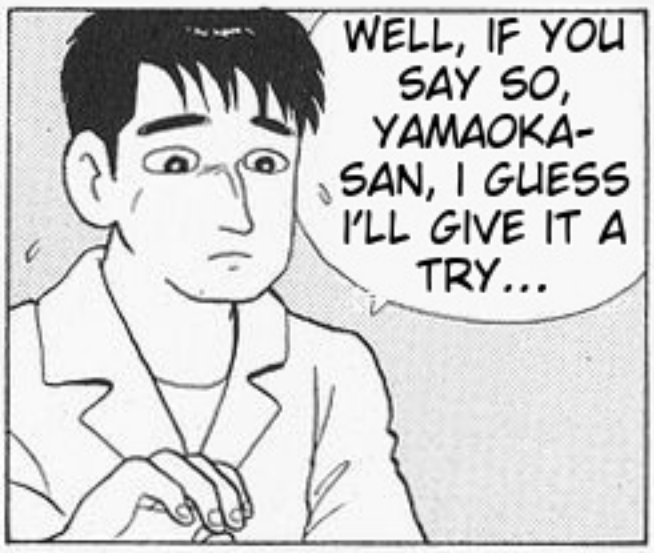
WELL, I MUST SAY... I'M REALLY NOT A FAN OF THINGS LIKE THIS...

PLEASE, INDULGE YOURSELF!

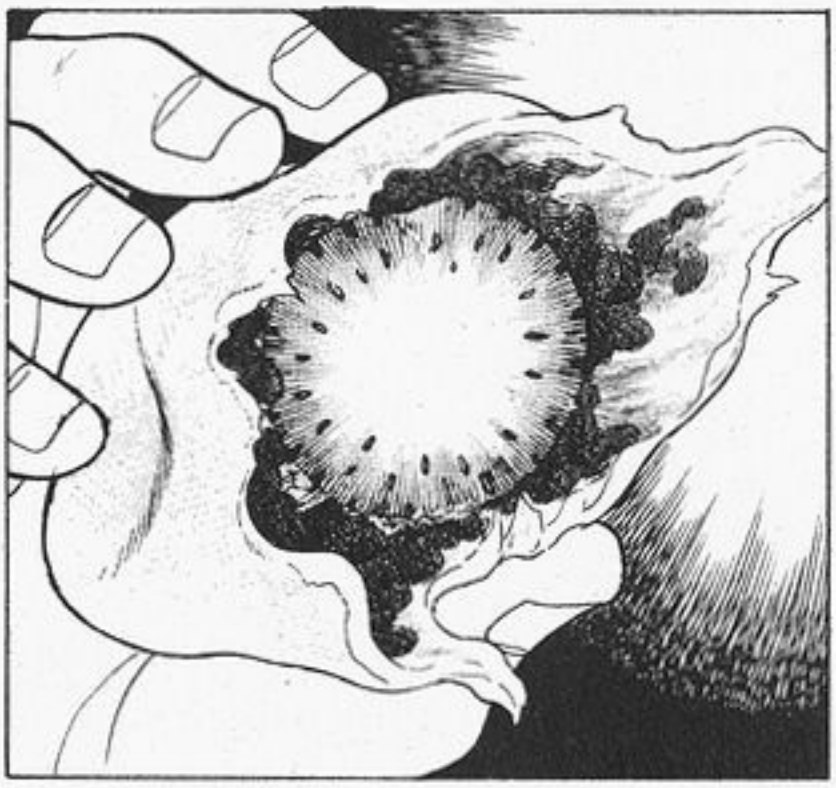
STRAWBERRIES TUCKED INSIDE THE SWEET BEAN PASTE— WHO WOULD HAVE EVER IMAGINED SUCH A DELIGHTFUL SURPRISE...

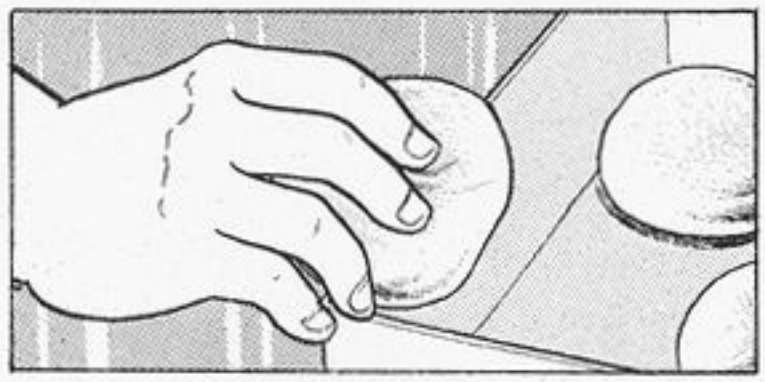
THIS IS QUITE THE UNUSUAL TREAT, ISN'T IT?

DELICIOUS!


WELL, IF YOU SAY SO, YAMAOKA-SAN, I GUESS I'LL GIVE IT A TRY...

I WILL?
I PROMISE, YOU'LL LOVE IT!
JUST TRUST ME ON THIS!





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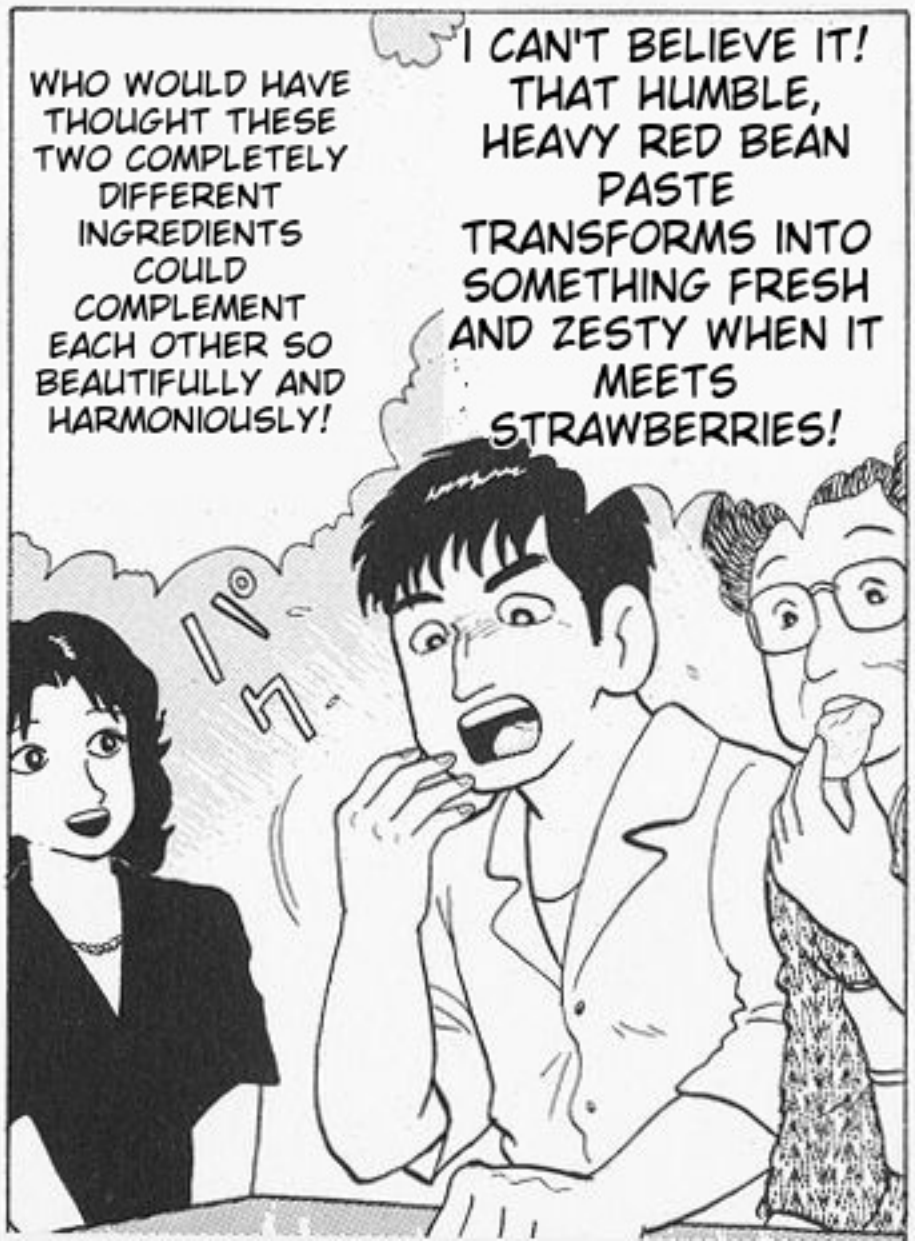

WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THESE TWO COMPLETELY DIFFERENT INGREDIENTS COULD COMPLEMENT EACH OTHER SO BEAUTIFULLY AND HARMONIOUSLY!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! THAT HUMBLE, HEAVY RED BEAN PASTE TRANSFORMS INTO SOMETHING FRESH AND ZESTY WHEN IT MEETS STRAWBERRIES!
パク

OH MY!! I... I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!!

CREATING A NEW FLAVOR OF SENBEI IS, IN A WAY, A VALUABLE EXPANSION OF THE WORLD OF TASTE, DON'T YOU THINK?

OF COURSE, PRESERVING TRADITIONAL FLAVORS IS IMPORTANT, BUT...

I SEE... SO THAT'S IT...

IF THE WAGASHI SHOP THAT CREATED STRAWBERRY DAIFUKU HAD JUST CLUNG TO TRADITION, THEY WOULD HAVE NEVER DISCOVERED THIS NEW DELICIOUSNESS!

MITANI-SAN,

HUH?

LET'S TAKE ON THE CHALLENGE OF CREATING VARIOUS NEW FLAVORS OF SENBEI!

ALRIGHT... I WON'T BE STUCK ON JUST SOY SAUCE-FLAVORED SENBEI.

YOU'RE SIMPLY WONDERFUL!

I FINALLY UNDERSTAND WHY NORIKO WENT THROUGH ALL THIS TROUBLE.

18

I'M SO GLAD YOU MANAGED TO CONVINCE YOUR HUSBAND!

CUT! THAT WAS FANTASTIC! WE CAPTURED SOME AMAZING SHOTS— ABSOLUTELY THE BEST!

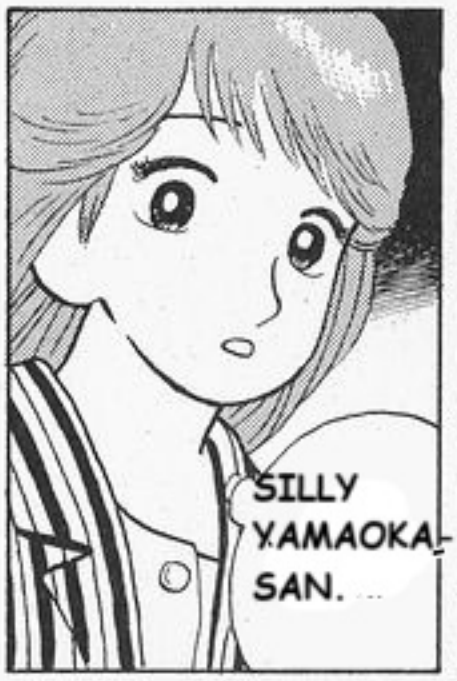
THANK YOU! IN TIMES LIKE THIS, YAMAOKA-SAN REALLY COMES THROUGH.

DELICIOUS!

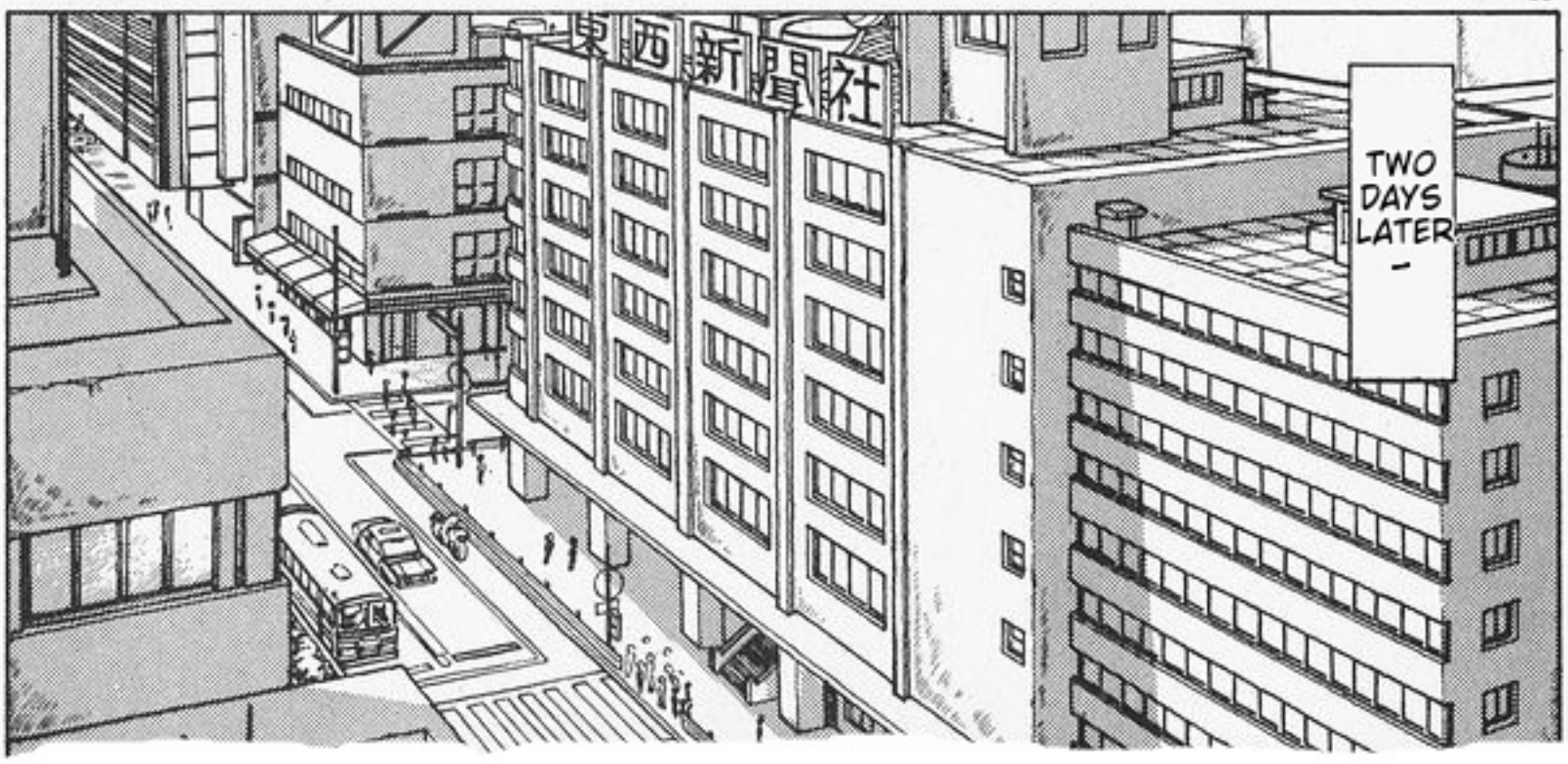
NOW, LET'S GET A SHOT OF THE RICE CRACKERS BEING GRILLED, SHALL WE?
ALRIGHT, NAOYOSHI-SAN, GIVE IT YOUR ALL!
OH, OH...

?

YAMAOKA-SAN IS GRINNING AWAY...
OH MY, WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?


SILLY YAMAOKA-SAN...

I'M SO HAPPY YOU'RE GETTING INTO THE SPIRIT OF THINGS.
WE'RE GOING TO CREATE A BRAND NEW RICE CRACKER AND SET UP A STALL, AND WE ABSOLUTELY NEED TO ADVERTISE ON TV!


東西新聞社
TWO DAYS LATER -

CUSTOMERS ARE FLOODING IN, AND THE SHOP IS IN TOTAL UPROAR?!

WHAT?!

WHAT'S GOING ON?

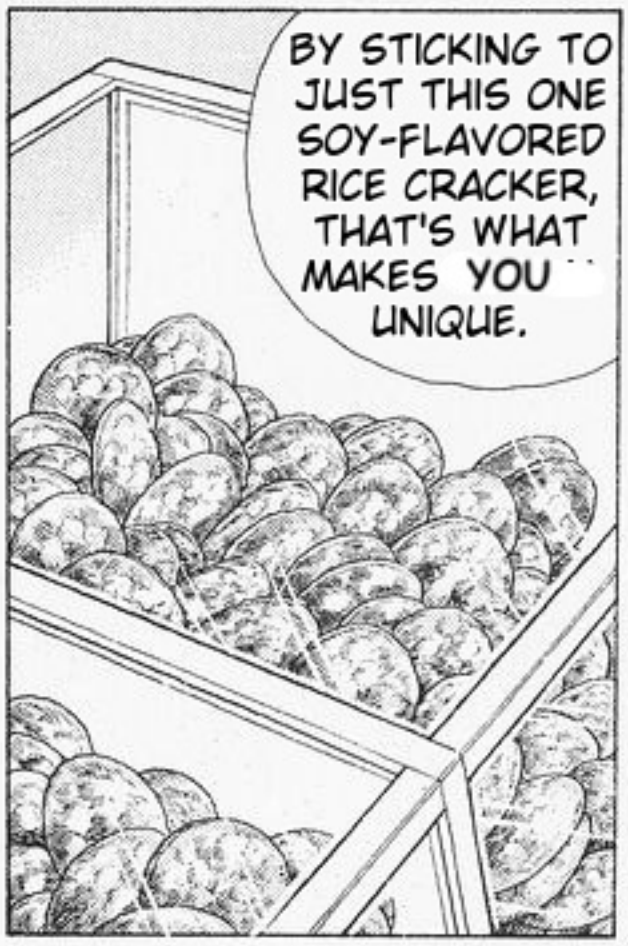
WAIT, YOU CAN'T MAKE IT TO WORK TODAY?

WHAT'S WRONG?

OH MY GOODNESS, WHAT ON EARTH HAPPENED?!

WELL, IT SEEMS THAT MITANI-SAN SAID THE SHOP IS SWARMING WITH CUSTOMERS, IT'S CHAOS OVER THERE! SO, SHE WON'T BE COMING IN TODAY...

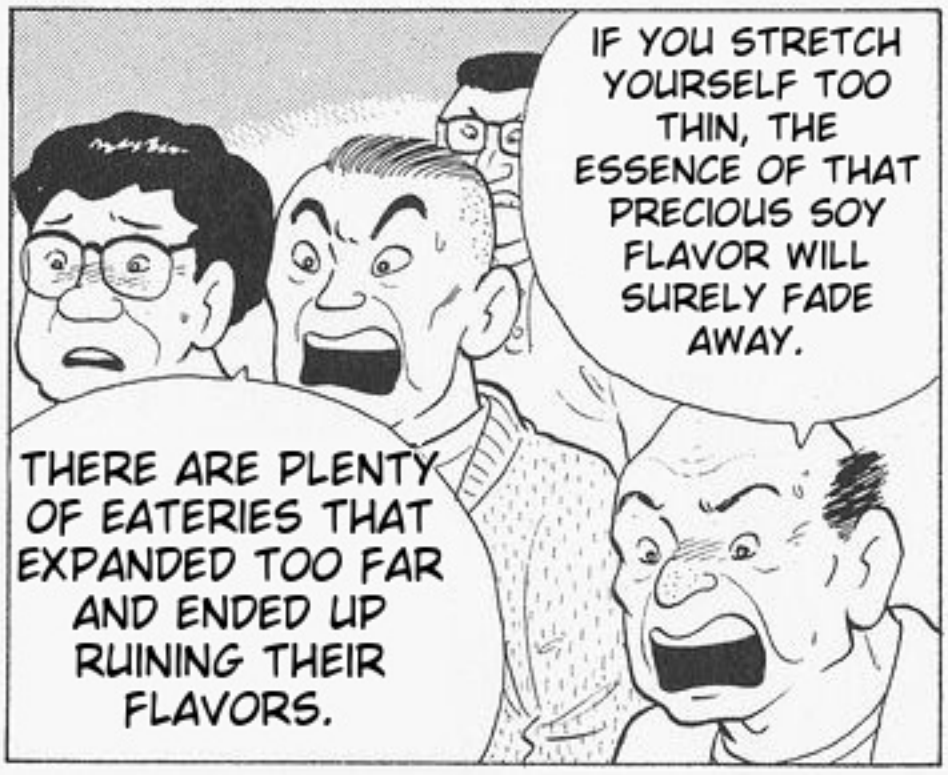
DELICIOUS!


BY STICKING TO JUST THIS ONE SOY-FLAVORED RICE CRACKER, THAT'S WHAT MAKES YOU UNIQUE.

I SAW IT ON TV, SUCH A SHAME.

STRAWBERRY DAIFUKU IS STRAWBERRY DAIFUKU; RICE CRACKERS ARE RICE CRACKERS.
LET THE OTHER SHOPS HANDLE THE SEAWEED CRACKERS, ARARE, AND THOSE QUIRKY VARIATIONS!

IT'S HEARTWARMING TO SEE THEM CARE SO DEEPLY ABOUT OUR RICE CRACKERS...
WELL... JUST LOOK AT HOW EARNEST THESE CUSTOMERS ARE...


IF YOU STRETCH YOURSELF TOO THIN, THE ESSENCE OF THAT PRECIOUS SOY FLAVOR WILL SURELY FADE AWAY.
THERE ARE PLENTY OF EATERIES THAT EXPANDED TOO FAR AND ENDED UP RUINING THEIR FLAVORS.

I'LL MAKE SURE TO COME BUY MUCH MORE, SO DON'T GO SPREADING YOUR ARMS!

MITANIYA, I BEG YOU!

MITANIYA WILL STAY TRUE TO OUR ROOTS, SOLELY FOCUSED ON THESE SOY SAUCE-FLAVORED RICE CRACKERS!

AND WE ABSOLUTELY WILL NOT SET UP A STALL!

REST ASSURED, I'LL TAKE BACK WHAT I SAID ON TV!

22

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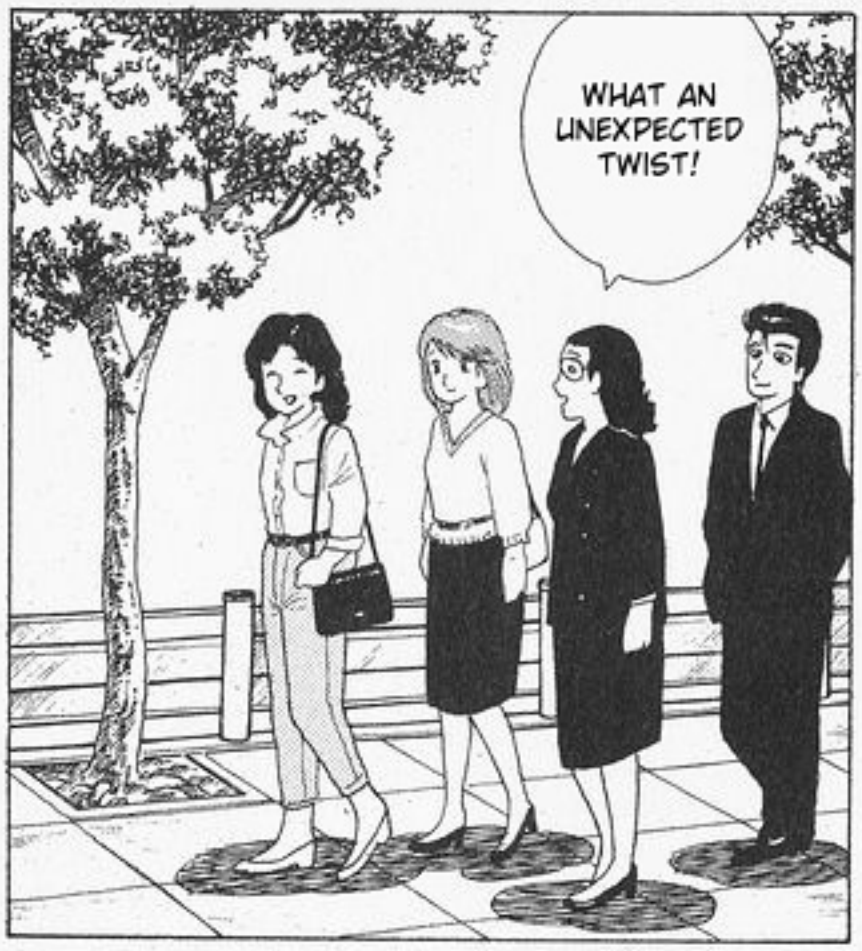
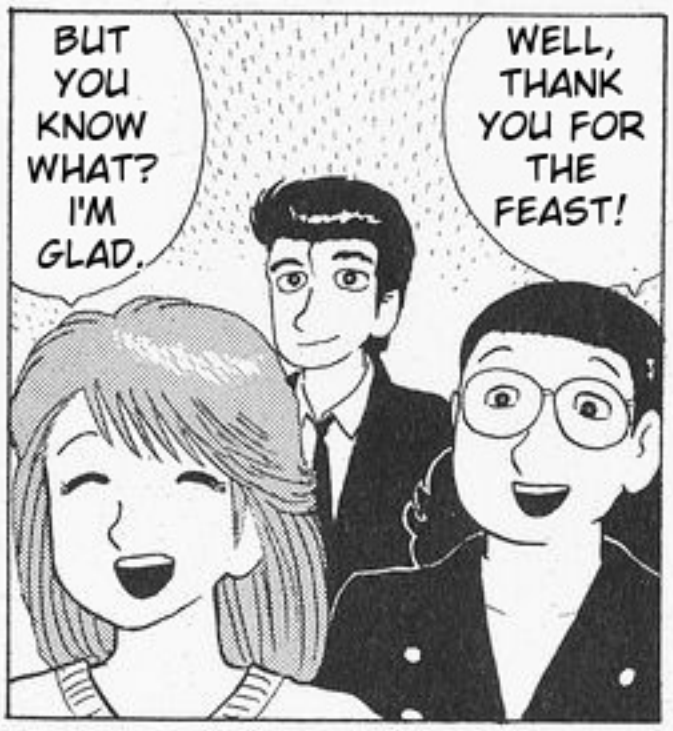
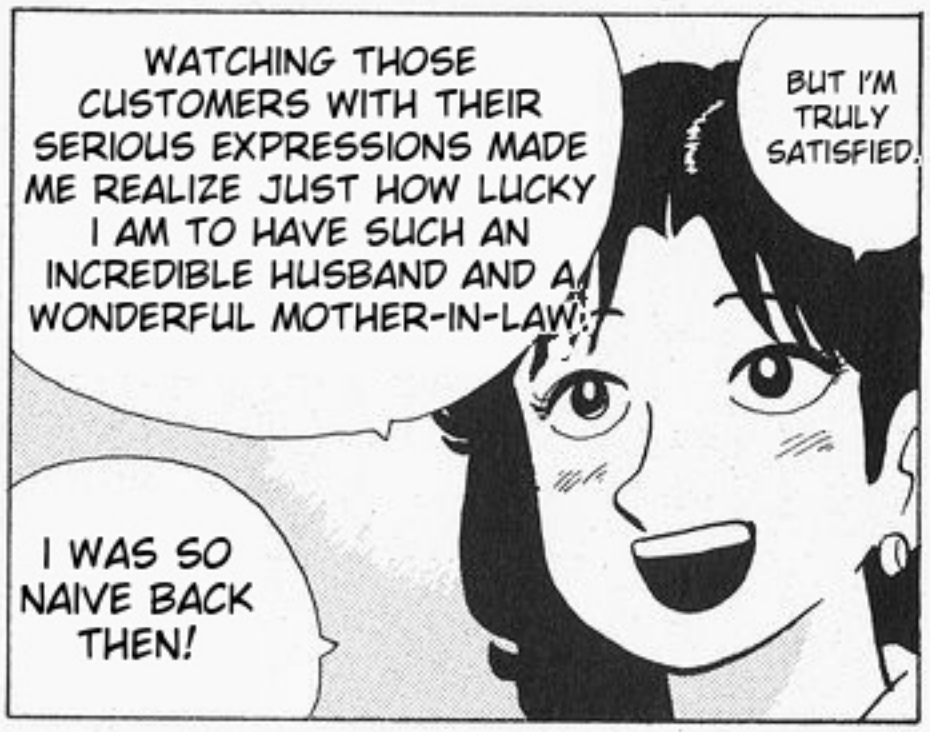
DELICIOUS!







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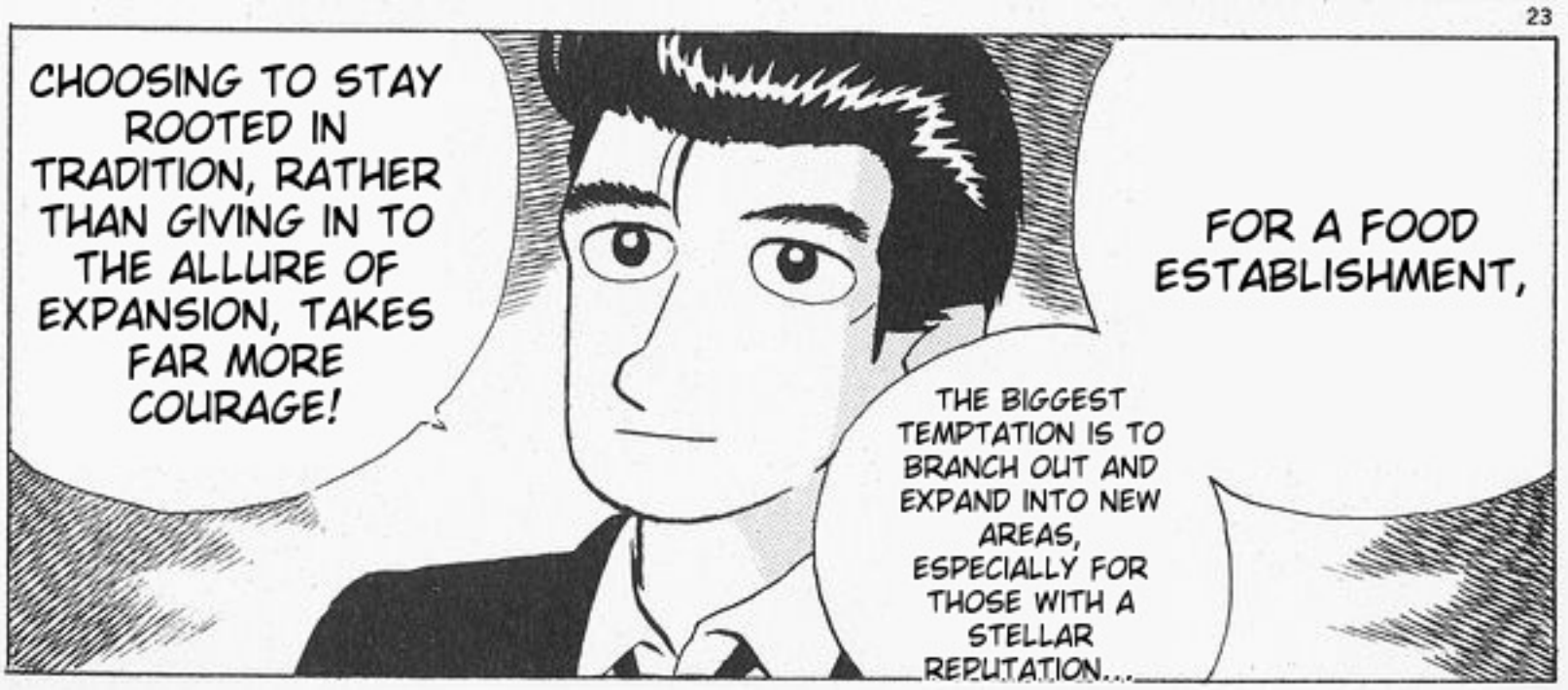


AH, SO THAT'S IT! YOU PLOTTED THE TV COVERAGE JUST TO KEEP US ON THIS SAME TRACK!

I SEE... MR. YAMAOKA'S PRETENDING TO NUDGE MR. MITANI TOWARDS EXPANSION, BUT,

THANK YOU, MR. YAMAOKA!

THAT'S EXACTLY RIGHT!

MR. MITANI IS TRULY A REMARKABLE MAN, FULL OF COURAGE AND GRIT!

YOU HAD IT ALL FIGURED OUT, KNOWING JUST HOW THE VIEWERS WOULD REACT!

LEAVE IT TO ME!

BRING IT ON!

W-WAIT, NO WAY, THIS CAN'T BE REAL!

NOW, LET'S SET A TRAP TO FIND OUT IF YAMAOKA-SAN'S REALLY DATING A DIFFERENT WOMAN EVERY DAY!!!

NOW, MRS. MITANI, MS. TABATA, LET'S WORK TOGETHER.

第3話 黄金の意味

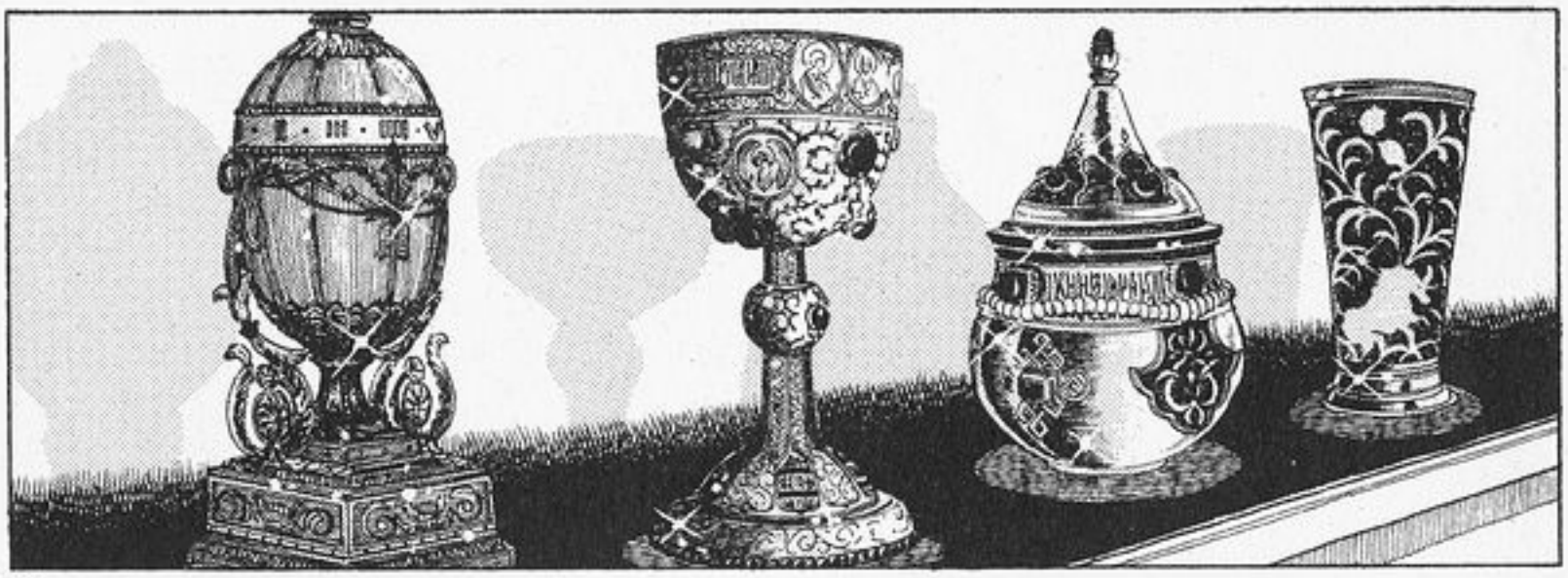
NEW GINZA

NEW GINZA

黄金の文化展 開催中

IT'S A DAZZLING SHOWCASE, FEATURING EXQUISITE GOLD ARTWORKS AND CRAFTS GATHERED FROM ALL CORNERS OF THE GLOBE!

TODAY, I'VE ARRIVED AT THE 'GOLDEN CULTURAL EXHIBITION' HELD AT THE NEW GINZA DEPARTMENT STORE, GRACIOUSLY INVITED BY PRESIDENT ITAYAMA.



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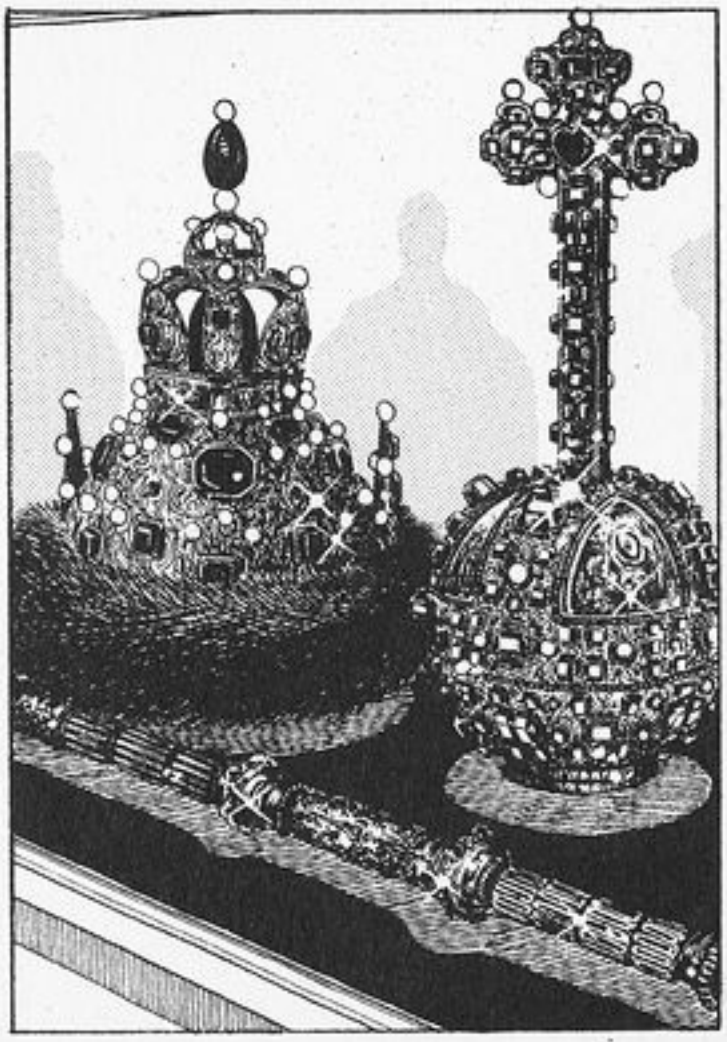
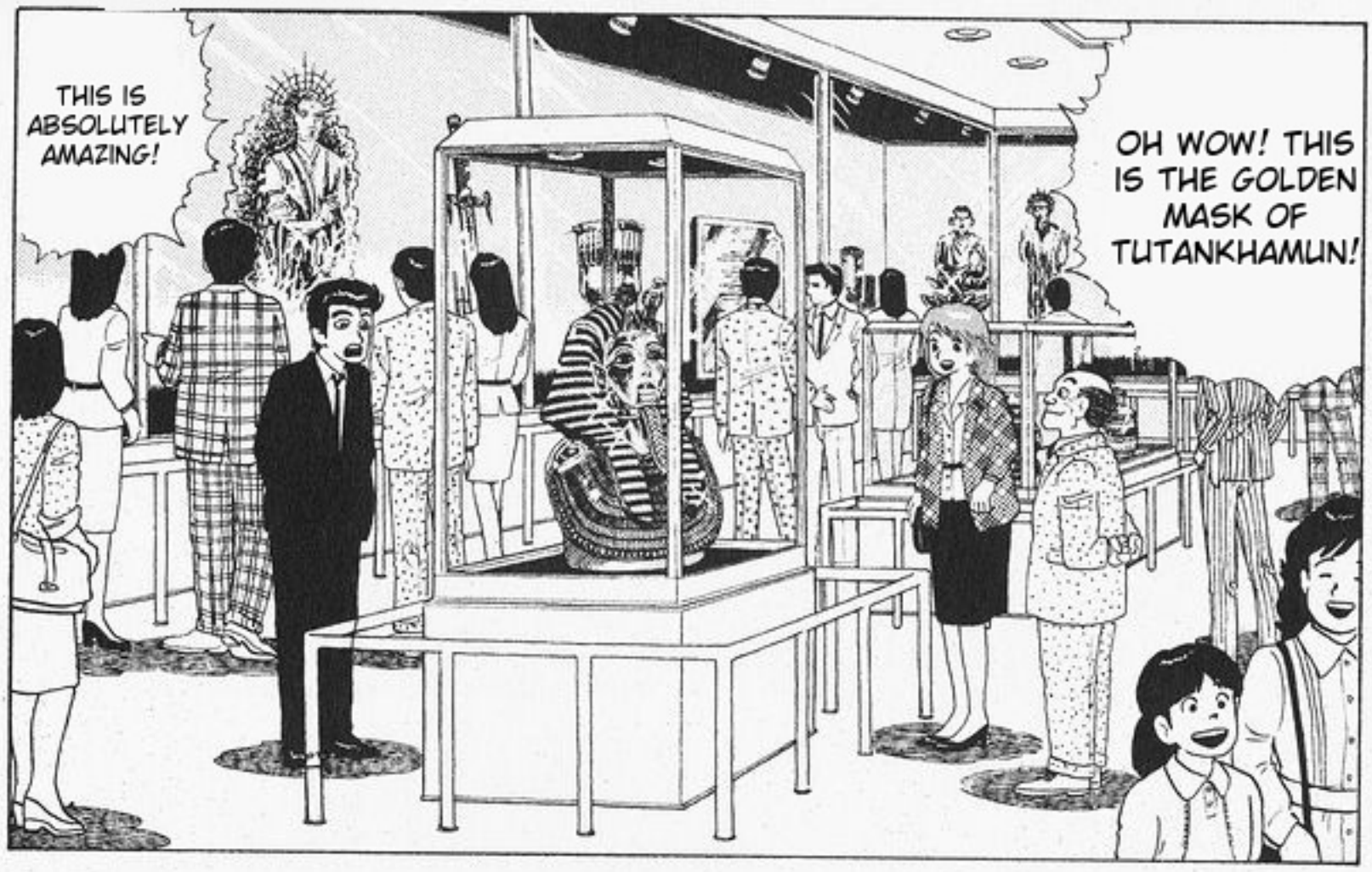


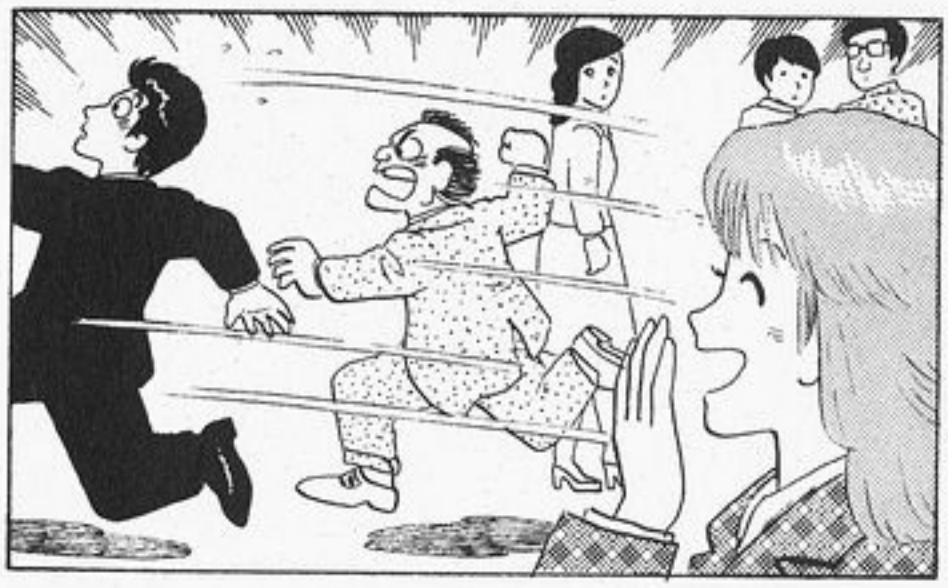
DELICIOUS!


THIS IS ABSOLUTELY AMAZING!
OH WOW! THIS IS THE GOLDEN MASK OF TUTANKHAMUN!

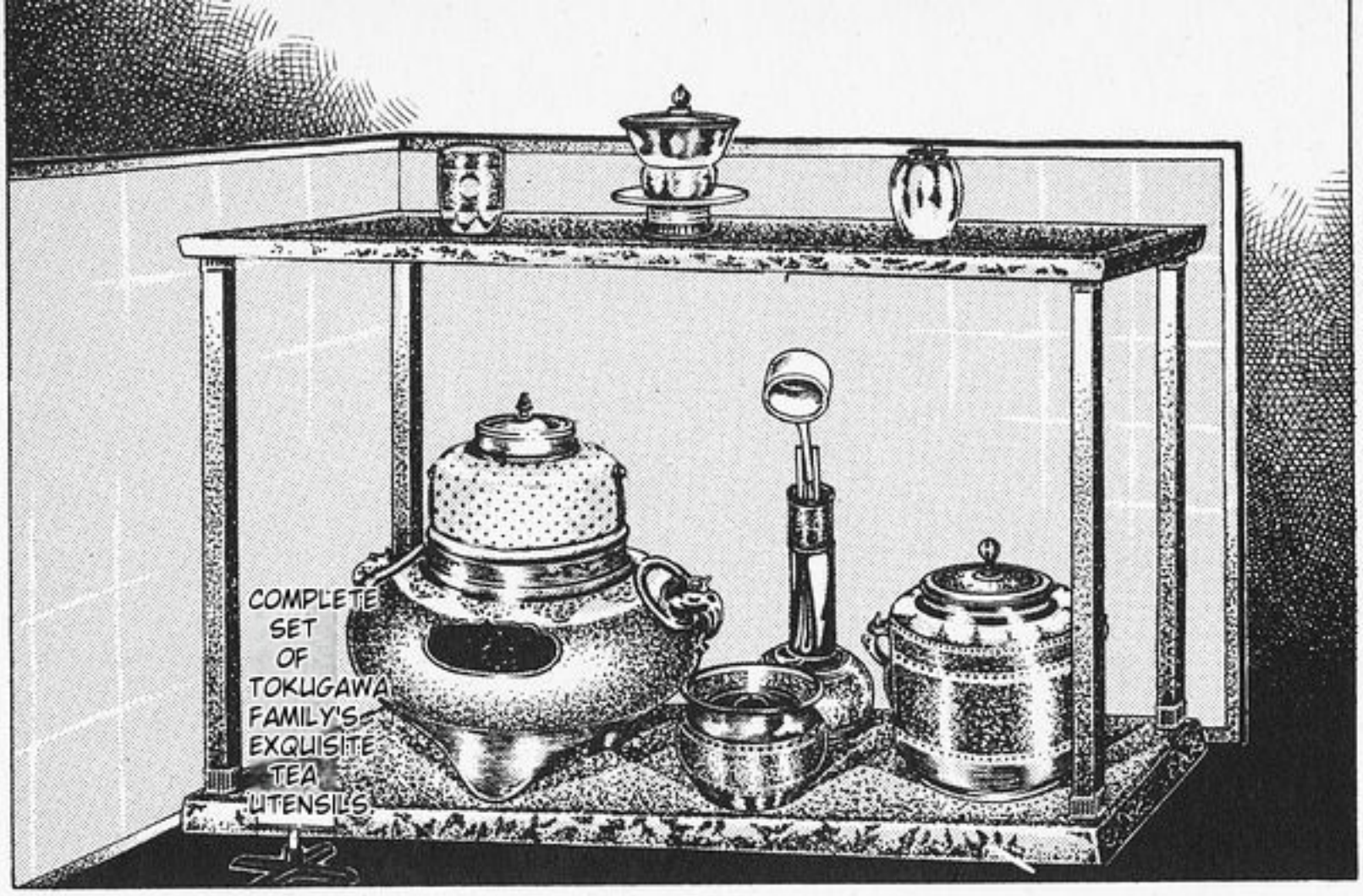
I'VE RISEN FROM THE DEPTHS OF POVERTY TO HOST SUCH A TOP-TIER EXHIBITION!
I'M OVERWHELMED WITH EMOTION!
じ～ん

HOW INCREDIBLE THAT THEY'RE LENDING US THE TREASURES OF THE WORLD!
THANKS TO THE SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS BY THE EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT, WE COULD SHOWCASE THIS!
THE NEW GINZA DEPARTMENT STORE STANDS TOE-TO-TOE WITH THE FINEST ART MUSEUMS IN THE WORLD!

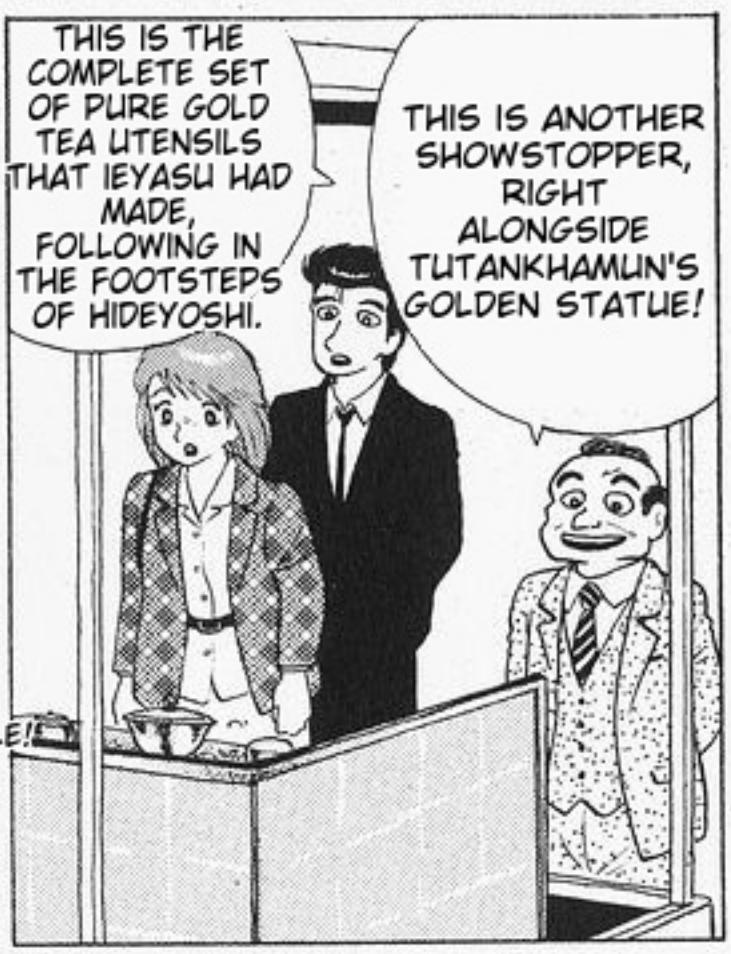
3

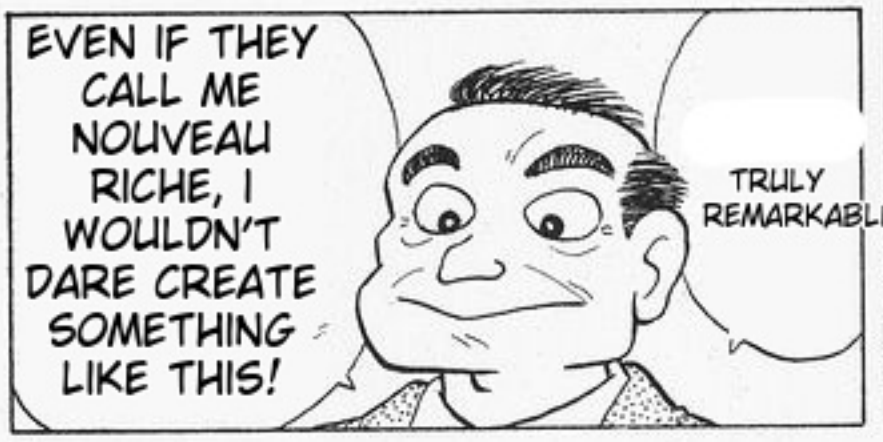


WOW, THEY REALLY HIT THE NAIL ON THE HEAD WITH THE TERM NOUVEAU RICHE!
A SMASHING SUCCESS WITH THE GOLDEN EXHIBIT...


COMPLETE SET OF TOKUGAWA FAMILY'S EXQUISITE TEA UTENSILS

WOW! I'VE SEEN PICTURES OF THIS IN A BOOK, BUT SEEING IT IN PERSON IS JUST BREATHTAKING!


THIS IS THE COMPLETE SET OF PURE GOLD TEA UTENSILS THAT IEYASU HAD MADE, FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF HIDEYOSHI.
THIS IS ANOTHER SHOWSTOPPER, RIGHT ALONGSIDE TUTANKHAMUN'S GOLDEN STATUE!


EVEN IF THEY CALL ME NOUVEAU RICHE, I WOULDN'T DARE CREATE SOMETHING LIKE THIS!
TRULY REMARKABLE!

4

I THINK THAT'S ENTIRELY POSSIBLE.
IS IT TRUE THAT TEA BREWED IN A GOLDEN KETTLE TASTES DIVINE?

WELL, YOU KNOW, THERE'S A CERTAIN SIGNIFICANCE TO A GOLDEN KETTLE.

BUT, HONESTLY, THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH THE ESSENCE OF WABI-SABI...

DELICIOUS!

ASIDE FROM A SOLUTION KNOWN AS AQUA REGIA, MADE BY MIXING CONCENTRATED HYDROCHLORIC AND NITRIC ACIDS, NOTHING DISSOLVES IN EITHER ACID OR ALKALI.

GOLD IS AN INCREDIBLY STABLE SUBSTANCE, YOU SEE.

QUITE THE OPPOSITE, ACTUALLY.

OH REALLY! DOES GOLD ACTUALLY DISSOLVE IN THE WATER TO ENHANCE ITS FLAVOR?

EVEN A TRACE AMOUNT OF IRON CAN LEACH INTO THE WATER, BINDING WITH THE TANNINS IN THE TEA AND SOMETIMES TAINTING ITS COLOR.

IN A CAST IRON TEAPOT,

WHICH MEANS IT DOESN'T ALTER THE TASTE OF WATER

IT DOESN'T UNDERGO CHEMICAL REACTIONS WITH OTHER MATERIALS.

TOKUGAWA IEYASU'S HEIRLOOM: A COMPLETE SET OF PURE GOLD TEA UTENSILS.

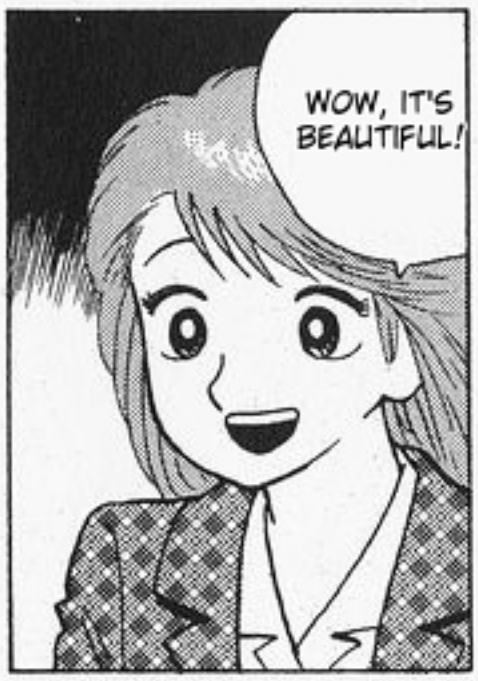
SO, I GUESS TOKUGAWA IEYASU DIDN'T JUST CREATE THOSE GOLDEN TEA UTENSILS TO FLAUNT HIS POWER!

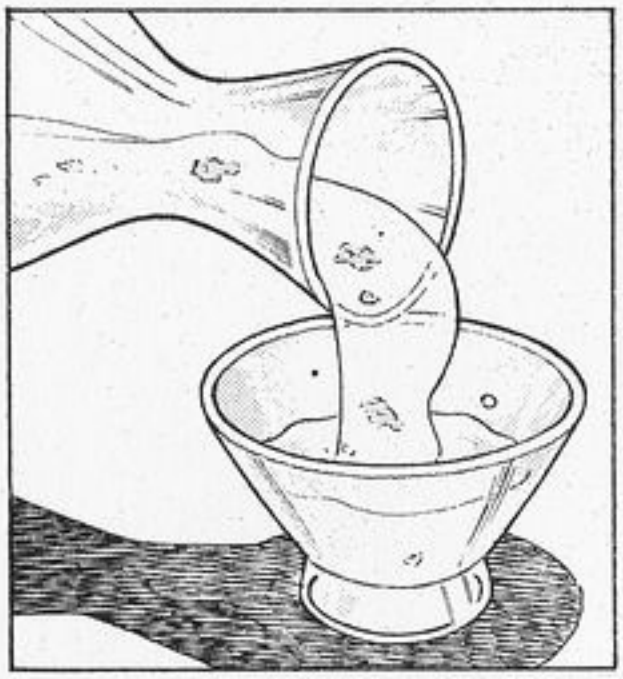
5

OH DEAR!

NO, THIS IS JUST PURE OSTENTATION.

THIS IS A RENOWNED RESTAURANT FAMOUS FOR ITS PURE GOLD CUISINE.
IS THIS TRULY A DISH MADE OF PURE GOLD?


WOW, IT'S BEAUTIFUL!



FIRST, LET'S TOAST WITH THIS GOLD LEAF SAKE!

JUST AS I THOUGHT, THE GOLD LEAF-INFUSED SAKE IS ABSOLUTELY DIVINE!!
AHH, SO DELICIOUS!!

CHEERS!
HAHA! IT'S A LAVISH FEAST, ISN'T IT? NOW, LET'S RAISE OUR GLASSES!

DELICIOUS!

AND IT ABSOLUTELY WON'T DISSOLVE IN SAKE!

WELL, OF COURSE! LIKE I SAID, GOLD DOESN'T DISSOLVE IN ANYTHING EXCEPT AQUA REGIA.

IF IT DOESN'T DISSOLVE, HOW CAN IT HAVE A FLAVOR?

WHY NOT?!

HMPH, WHAT ARE YOU EVEN SAYING?

EVEN IF GOLD HAS NO TASTE, MAYBE ITS PRESENCE ENHANCES THE QUALITY OF THE SAKE, MAKING IT TASTE BETTER!

GOLD DOESN'T PARTAKE IN SUCH CHEMICAL REACTIONS, YOU KNOW.

NO, I MEAN THE FLAVOR OF THE GOLD DOESN'T BLEND WITH THE FLAVOR OF THE SAKE...

THE GOLD ITSELF HAS NO FLAVOR AT ALL.

THAT'S WHY IT'S USED IN DENTAL WORK, RIGHT?

UGHHH...

AH, BUT THAT'S THE MAGIC OF GOLD! WHEN GOLD LEAF IS ADDED, IT SPARKLES WITH LUXURY AND MAKES EVERYTHING TASTE MORE DELIGHTFUL!

THEN WHY ON EARTH DO THEY PUT GOLD LEAF IN SAKE?!

AND HERE'S A DELIGHTFUL DISH OF SEAWEED AND BAMBOO SHOOTS, SIMMERED WITH GOLD LEAF.

WHEN YOU SAVOR IT ALONGSIDE PURE GOLD, THE FLAVOR REACHES NEW HEIGHTS!

OH MY, EVEN THE FAMILIAR BAMBOO SHOOTS,

THEY ARE GENEROUSLY COATED FOR YOUR DELIGHT.

OH MY, LOOK AT THOSE DELICATE STRANDS OF GOLD LEAF!

8

HERE WE HAVE SASHIMI OF SEA BREAM, ADORNED WITH A SPRINKLE OF GOLD LEAF.

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HMM...

DELICIOUS!

SURELY EVEN THE MIGHTY IEYASU HAS NEVER FEASTED UPON SUCH A SIGHT!
WHAT A LUXURIOUS AND STUNNING CREATION!
THE SOFT BLUSH OF THE SEA BREAM SKIN, THE PRISTINE WHITE FLESH, AND THE SHIMMERING GOLD CREATE AN OPULENT DISPLAY!
THIS IS A BOWL OF QUAIL DUMPLINGS ADORNED WITH GOLD LEAF.
.....
TOKUGAWA IEYASU WOULD NEVER INDULGE IN SUCH EXTRAVAGANCE, AS IT WOULD ONLY DISTRACT FROM THE DELICATE FLAVORS OF THE SASHIMI.
THAT'S MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR ME!
HAHA... PURE GOLD CUISINE CERTAINLY FILLS THE BELLY!
HERE WE HAVE STEAMED YOUNG SEA BREAM, ELEGANTLY LACED WITH GOLD LEAF.
BEHOLD THE RICE TOPPED WITH A MAGNIFICENT PEONY CRAFTED FROM GOLD LEAF!

OH, THAT'S A BIT HARSH!

BEFORE WE EVEN TALK ABOUT WHETHER IT SUITS YOUR TASTE, IT SEEMED UTTERLY POINTLESS TO ME.

I FOUND IT TO BE QUITE QUIRKY AND ENTERTAINING!

I THOUGHT PURE GOLD CUISINE MIGHT NOT BE TO YAMAOKA'S LIKING, BUT IT SEEMS I WAS RIGHT AFTER ALL.

HONESTLY,

ACTUALLY, I HAVE SOMETHING I'D LOVE TO SHOW YOU ALL!

WELL, WHAT IS IT THEN?

HMPH.

KURITA-SAN, YOU'RE SUCH A KIND SOUL!

REALLY, FOR REAL?!

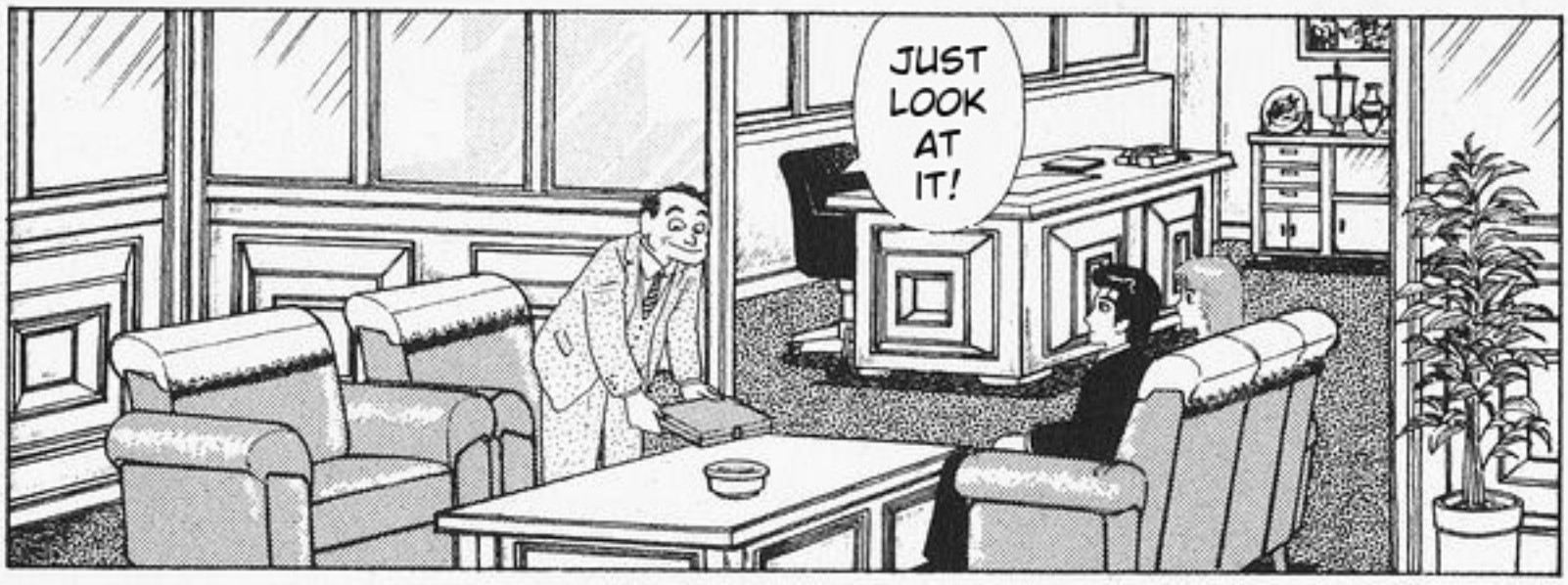
WAIT, WHAT?!?

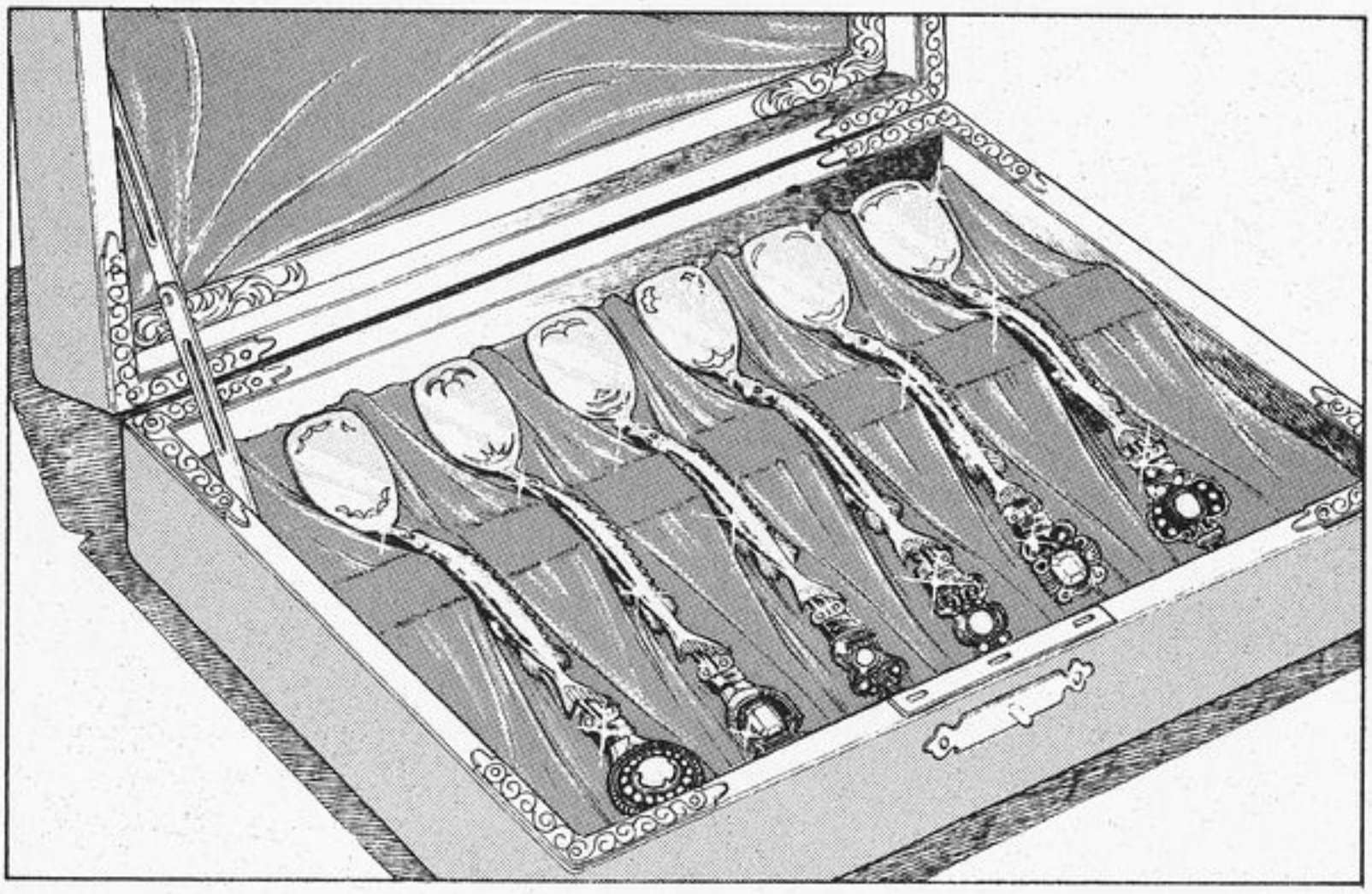
HAHA, JUST KIDDING!

BINGO!

YOU'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT A SOLID GOLD TOILET, ARE YOU?!

DELICIOUS!





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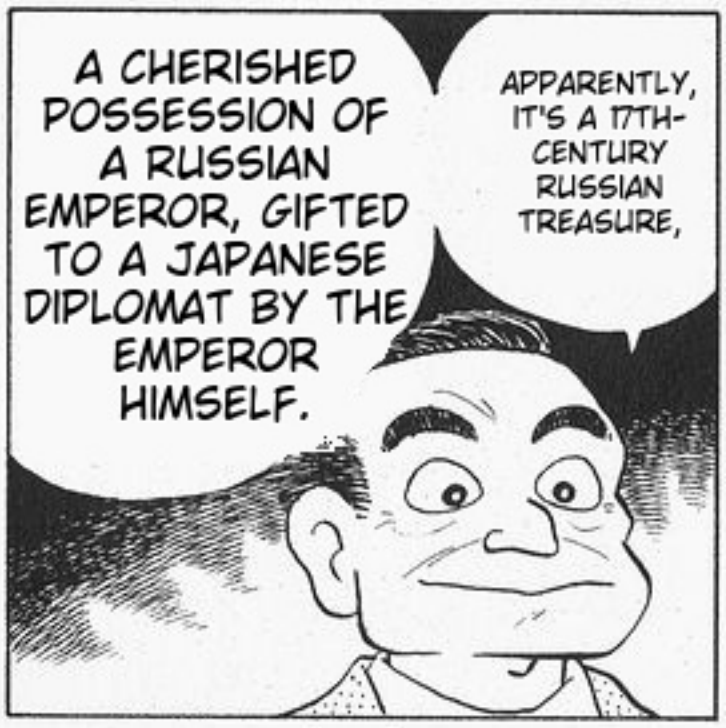
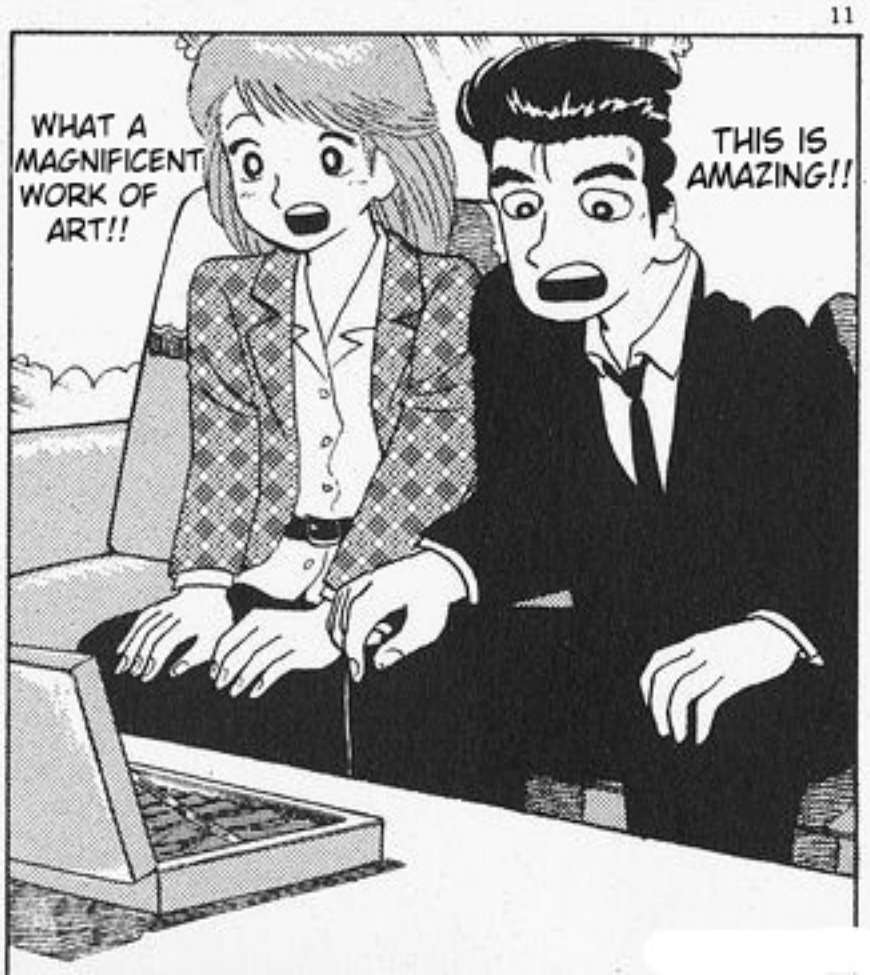




THE ARTISTIC VALUE FAR OUTWEIGHS ITS WORTH IN GOLD.

THIS IS INDEED A TREASURE OF GREAT SIGNIFICANCE!

TRUTH BE TOLD, I HAD MY REASONS FOR KEEPING IT UNDER WRAPS...

I WANTED TO, BUT...

EVEN THOUGH THIS SPOON BECAME THE STAR ATTRACTION.

WHY DIDN'T YOU SUBMIT THIS FOR THE GOLDEN CULTURE EXHIBITION?

IT MUST HAVE BEEN SOMETHING INCREDIBLY PRECIOUS TO ITS PREVIOUS OWNER.

YOU SEE, THE OWNER...

THIS SET OF SPOONS WAS UP FOR SALE AT AN ART DEALER'S, BUT IT STRUGGLED TO FIND A BUYER.

12

AND TODAY IS THE DAY I LEND THIS SPOON BACK TO ITS FORMER OWNER.

I WAS CAPTIVATED AT FIRST GLANCE AND COULDN'T RESIST ACCEPTING THAT CONDITION TO BUY IT...

IT WAS A CONDITION THAT I COULD ONLY USE THIS SPOON.

DELICIOUS!

YAMAOKA-KUN! IT SEEMS YOU HARBOR SOME BIASES AGAINST ME?!

I SEE, THEN IT LOOKS LIKE WE CAN'T SHOWCASE IT AT THE GOLDEN CULTURE EXHIBITION.

HMM, IT WAS SUCH A SPLENDID OPPORTUNITY FOR ITAYAMA-SAN TO FLAUNT THEIR PRECIOUS TREASURE, WASN'T IT?

SOTOMURA IS HERE...

PRESIDENT.

ALRIGHT, UNDERSTOOD. PLEASE LET HER IN.

13

EH?

SHE'S THE FORMER OWNER OF THIS SPOON.

I WAS JUST SHOWING THIS SPOON TO THEM.

ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE KURITA-SAN TO YAMAOKA-KUN FROM THE EAST-WEST NEWSPAPER.

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU, SOTOMURA-SAN. PLEASE, HAVE A SEAT.

ONCE AGAIN, I COME BEARING THE AUDACIOUS REQUEST OF THE YEAR.

MY NAME IS KURITA, AND I MUST SAY, THIS SPOON IS TRULY MAGNIFICENT.

I'M YAMAOKA.

NOW I UNDERSTAND WHY IT POSSESSES SUCH EXTRAORDINARY ELEGANCE.

WELL,

THIS IS A TREASURE PASSED DOWN FROM MY LATE HUSBAND'S FATHER, A GIFT FROM NONE OTHER THAN HIS MAJESTY, TSAR NICHOLAS II OF RUSSIA.

THANK YOU SO MUCH!

14

SELLING THIS SPOON SEEMED MY ONLY OPTION TO REPAY THOSE DEBTS...

AFTER MY HUSBAND PASSED AWAY, I WAS LEFT WITH A MOUNTAIN OF DEBTS, WITH NO CHILDREN AND NO SKILLS TO SPEAK OF.

AFTER THE WAR, MY HUSBAND FACED RELENTLESS MISFORTUNE AND LOST EVERYTHING, YET THIS SPOON REMAINED HIS ONLY CHERISHED POSSESSION.

DELICIOUS!

FOR MY HUSBAND THIS SPOON WAS NOT JUST A UTENSIL; IT WAS A PRECIOUS TREASURE THAT HELD THE MEMORIES OF JOYFUL DAYS GONE BY, A HEARTFELT TRIBUTE TO HIS DEPARTED FATHER.

MY HUSBAND ALWAYS SET THIS SPOON ON THE TABLE ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF HIS LATE FATHER'S DEATH.

IT'S ALSO THE ANNIVERSARY OF MY HUSBAND'S PASSING.

SO, TOMORROW MARKS YOUR HUSBAND'S FATHER'S REMEMBRANCE, DOES IT?

TO SHARE THE SAME DEATH ANNIVERSARY AS HIS OWN FATHER, SEEMS LIKE FATE INTERVENING, DOESN'T IT?

ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF MY HUSBAND'S LATE FATHER, I WISHED TO SET THIS SPOON ON THE TABLE,

COMFORTING BOTH MYHUSBAND AND HIS FATHER'S SPIRIT, AND THUS, I DECIDED TO SELL IT WITH THE CONDITION OF BORROWING IT ONCE A YEAR.

THAT'S WHY I THOUGHT, AT THE VERY LEAST, EVEN AFTER SELLING THIS SPOON,

THE KIND OF FOOD THAT REQUIRES THIS SPOON IS QUITE EXTRAVAGANT, AND RIGHT NOW, IT'S BEYOND MY MEANS TO PURCHASE...

BUT I WON'T BE USING THIS SPOON ANY LONGER...

AH... THEN ALL THE MORE, USING THIS SPOON TOMORROW CARRIES A SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE.

.....

OH? WHAT KIND OF FOOD REQUIRES THIS SPOON?

MRS. SOTOMURA, HOW ABOUT INSTEAD OF BRINGING A SPOON TODAY, PRESIDENT ITAYAMA DELIVERS IT TO YOUR HOME TOMORROW?

WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO OFFER SOMETHING IN MEMORY OF YOUR HUSBAND ON HIS MEMORIAL DAY.

HMM... YAMAOKA, ARE YOU UP TO SOMETHING...?

HUH?

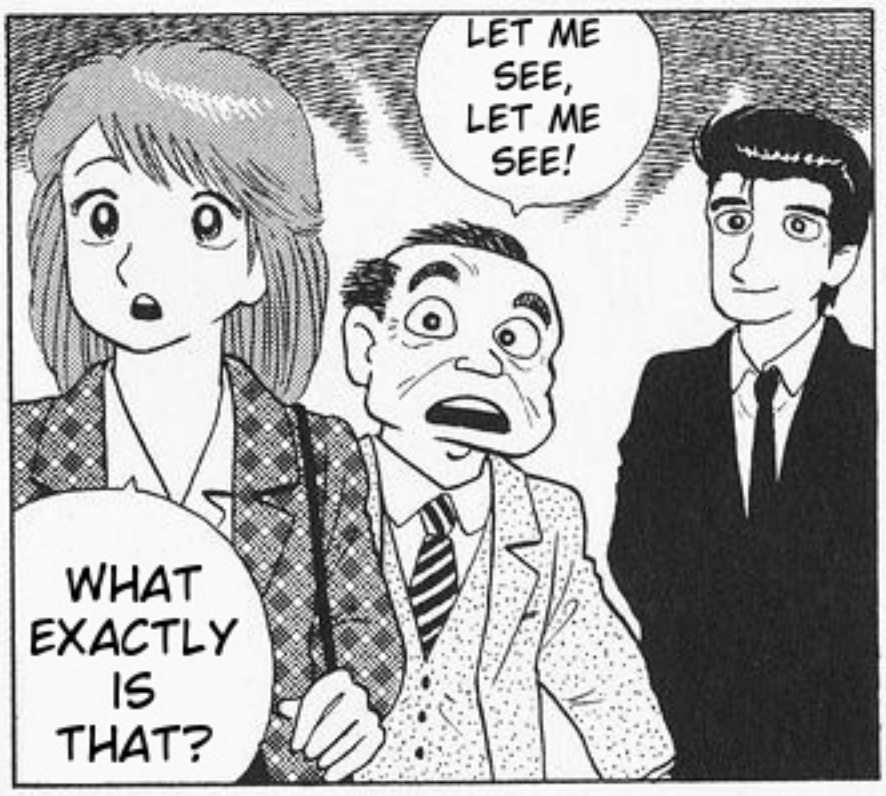
WE DO?

PLEASE DO COME BY!

OH... MY HUSBAND TRULY LOVED HAVING GUESTS, SO I BELIEVE HE WOULD BE DELIGHTED IF EVERYONE CAME.

DELICIOUS!

17



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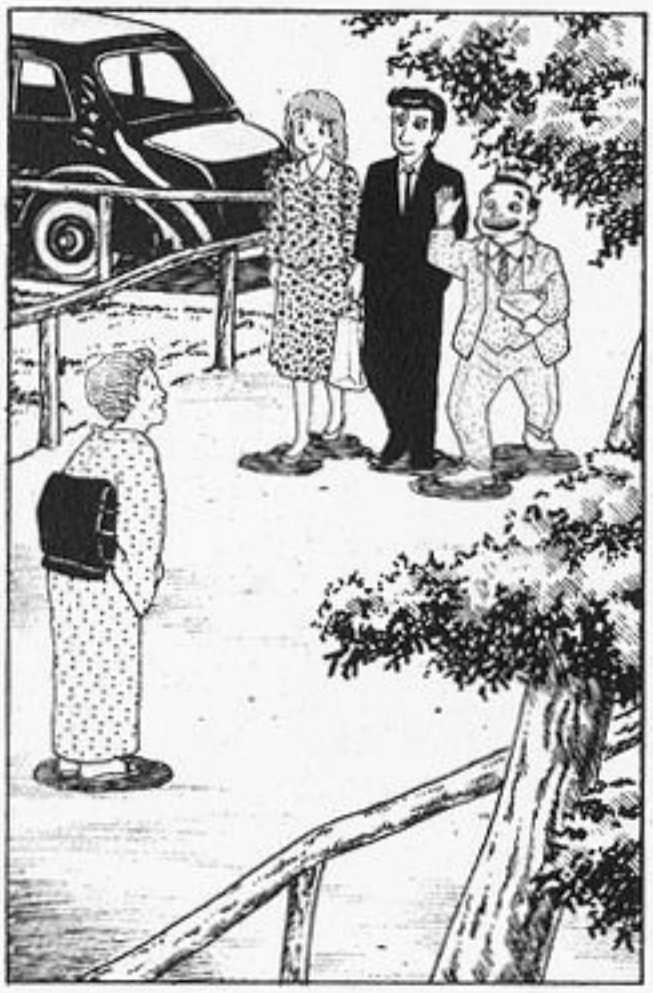
充実館

THANK YOU SO MUCH!
HERE WE GO, I'VE BROUGHT THE SPOON JUST FOR YOU!



18

WELL... WHAT COULD IT POSSIBLY BE?!
I'VE BROUGHT SOMETHING TRULY WORTHY OF THIS SPOON, PLEASE DO OPEN IT!

AND NOT JUST ANY CAVIAR– THIS IS THE FINEST FROM PETROSSIAN IN BALI!!

T-THIS IS CAVIAR!!

CAVIAR PETROSSIAN PARIS

AFTER ALL, CAVIAR COMES FROM THE EGGS OF STURGEON FOUND IN THE CASPIAN SEA.

WITH A PURE GOLD SPOON, A RELIC FROM THE RUSSIAN TSAR, ADORNED WITH AN EXQUISITE STURGEON CARVING, IT'S CLEAR WHAT ITS PURPOSE IS!

HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT MY HUSBAND'S FAVORITE DELICACY IS CAVIAR?!

19

MY HUSBAND ALWAYS SAID THE SAME.

USING ANY OTHER MATERIAL WOULD TAINT THE GLORIOUS CAVIAR WITH THE SPOON'S SCENT AND TASTE, WHICH IS WHY ONLY PURE GOLD WILL DO.

THIS SPOON'S PURE GOLD ISN'T MERELY A SHOW OF OPULENCE.

HMM... INTRIGUING...

THIS IS QUITE DIFFERENT FROM PURE GOLD CUISINE!

USING PURE GOLD LIKE THIS ACTUALLY MAKES SENSE.

HMM... PURE GOLD IS CHEMICALLY VERY STABLE, SO IT WON'T RUIN THE FLAVOR OF THE CAVIAR.

SLICE THIS BLACK BREAD THIN AND TOP IT WITH CAVIAR...

YES, YES! MY HUSBAND SAID THE SAME THING!

CAVIAR PAIRS BEST WITH VODKA!

NOW, LET'S HAVE SOME VODKA.

STOLICHNAYA

Stolichnaya vodka

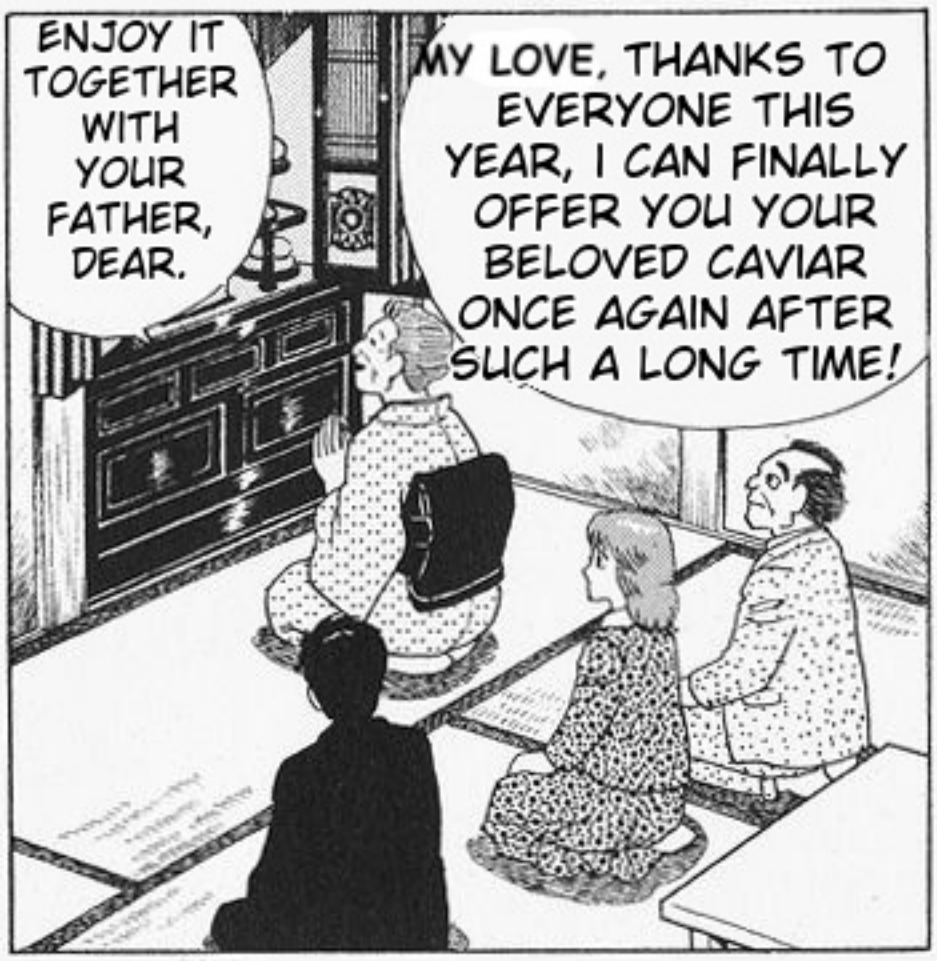
20

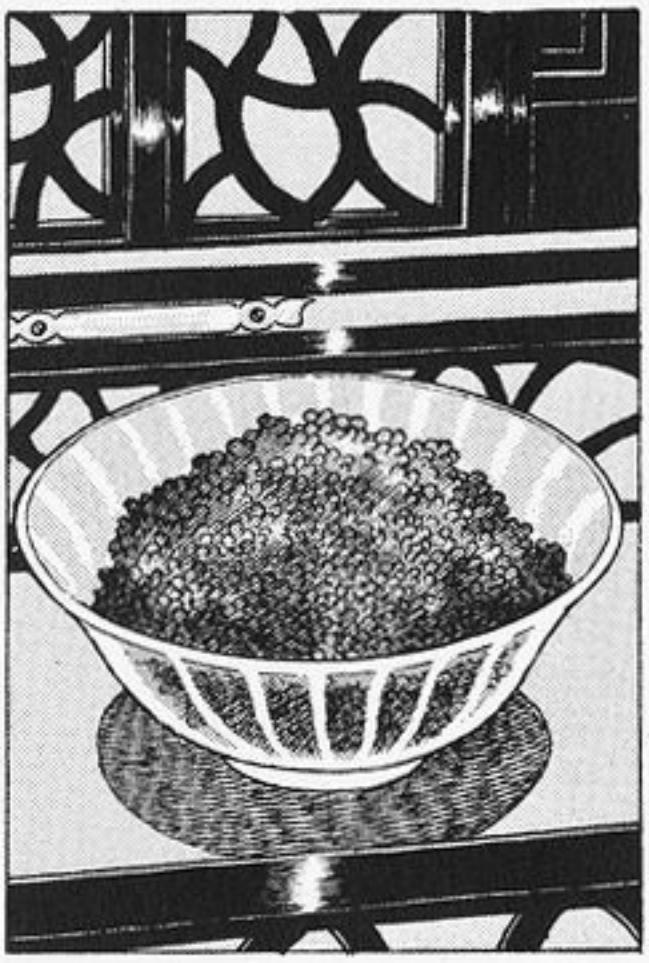
OH MY, YAMAOKA-SAN, YOU MIRROR EVERYTHING MY HUSBAND DID!

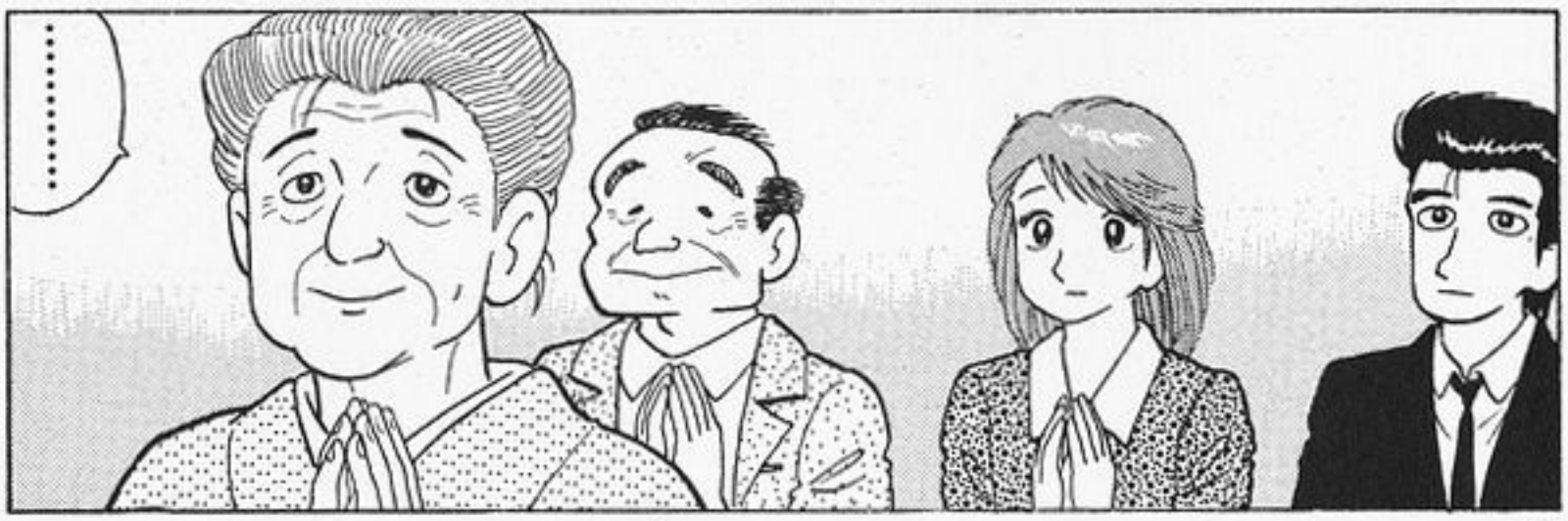
LET'S PILE IT ON THICK, SO GOOD YOU WANT TO SHOUT!

NO WAY!!

DELICIOUS!


ENJOY IT TOGETHER WITH YOUR FATHER, DEAR.
MY LOVE, THANKS TO EVERYONE THIS YEAR, I CAN FINALLY OFFER YOU YOUR BELOVED CAVIAR ONCE AGAIN AFTER SUCH A LONG TIME!

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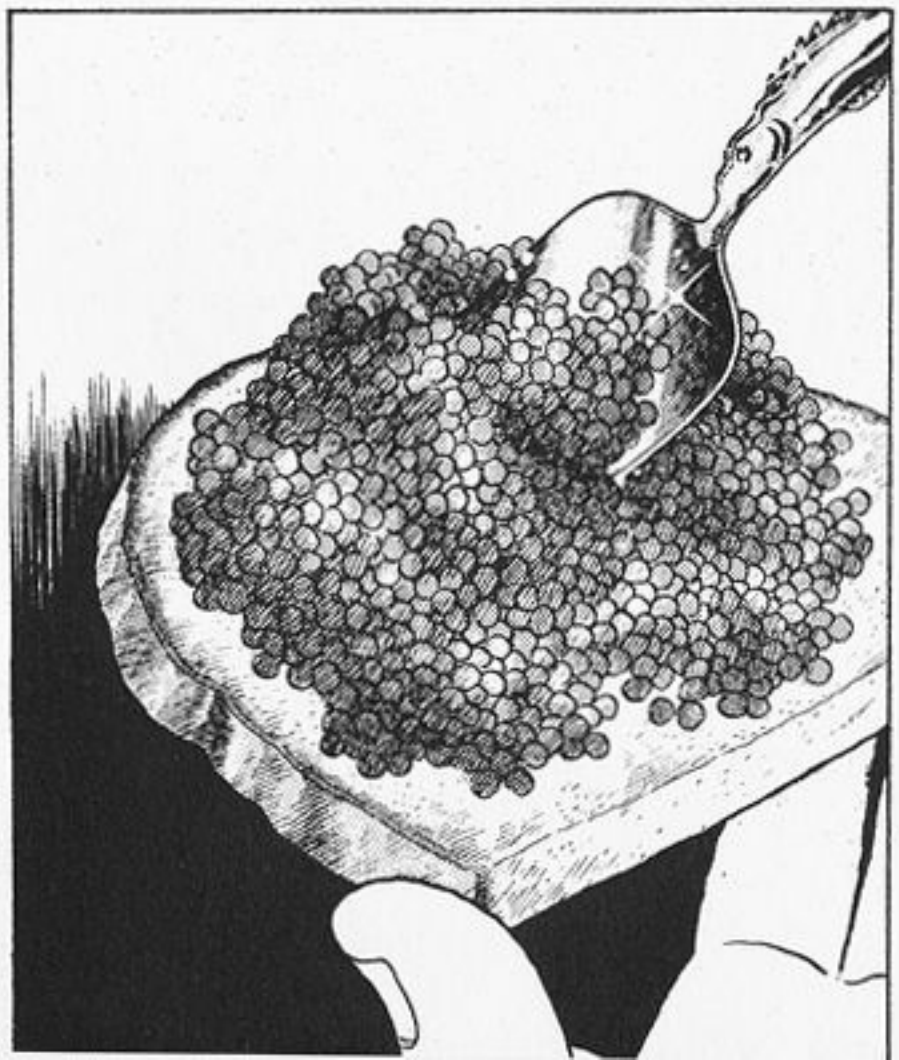

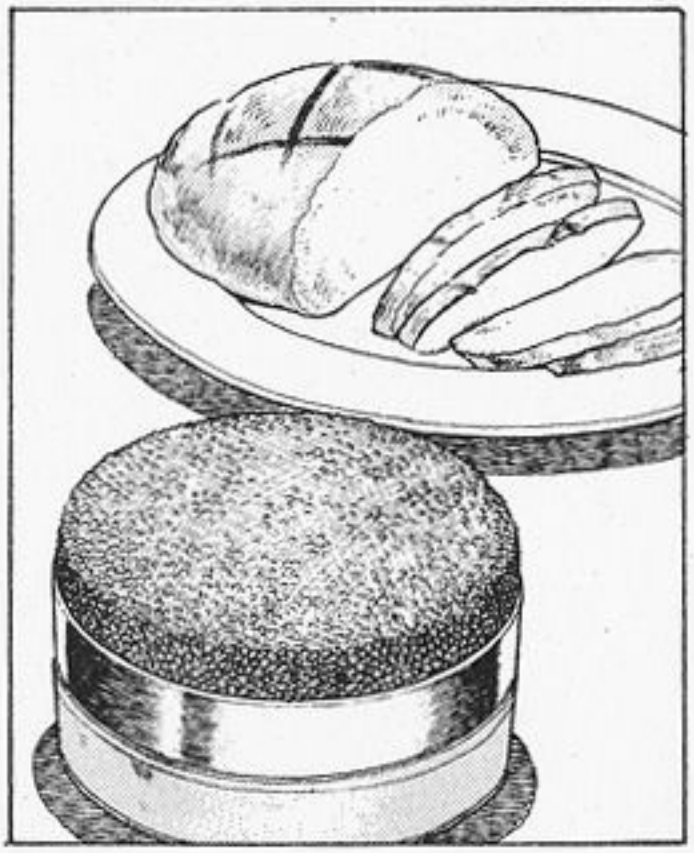

WOW, THAT'S QUITE THE POWERHOUSE!

INDULGING IN CULINARY DELIGHTS CAN LEAD YOU DOWN A PATH WHERE DEBT BECOMES YOUR FINAL COMPANION!

MR. YAMAOKA, PLEASE TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF!

AH, YES, INDEED! A GRAND CULINARY ADVENTURE, AND THE DEBTS I'VE RACKED UP WERE ALL JUST A TICKET TO SAVOR THE FINEST DELICACIES!

YOUR LATE HUSBAND MUST HAVE TRULY ADORED HIS FOOD, DIDN'T HE?

LET'S RAISE A TOAST!!

WELL THEN, LET'S TOAST TO YAMAOKA-KUN'S EARLY DEMISE,

SHUT UP!

BETTER NOT STICK AROUND TOO LONG!

YAMAOKA-SAN'S ALREADY THE KING OF DEBT. IF HE LIVES MUCH LONGER, HE'LL END UP IN POVERTY!

第4話

玄米VS白米

〈前編〉

SHIRAKAWA ONSEN STATION

IZU

HEY, YAMAOKA-SAN!!!

2

COME ON, COME ON, LET'S START WITH A DRINK!

OH, THIS IS SUCH A DELIGHTFUL SURPRISE!

HI AGAIN!

HEY, MATSU-SAN, LONG TIME NO SEE!

DELICIOUS ADVENTURE 12

3

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YOUR VOICES ARE WAY TOO QUIET!!
COME ON, PUT SOME MORE SPIRIT INTO IT!!

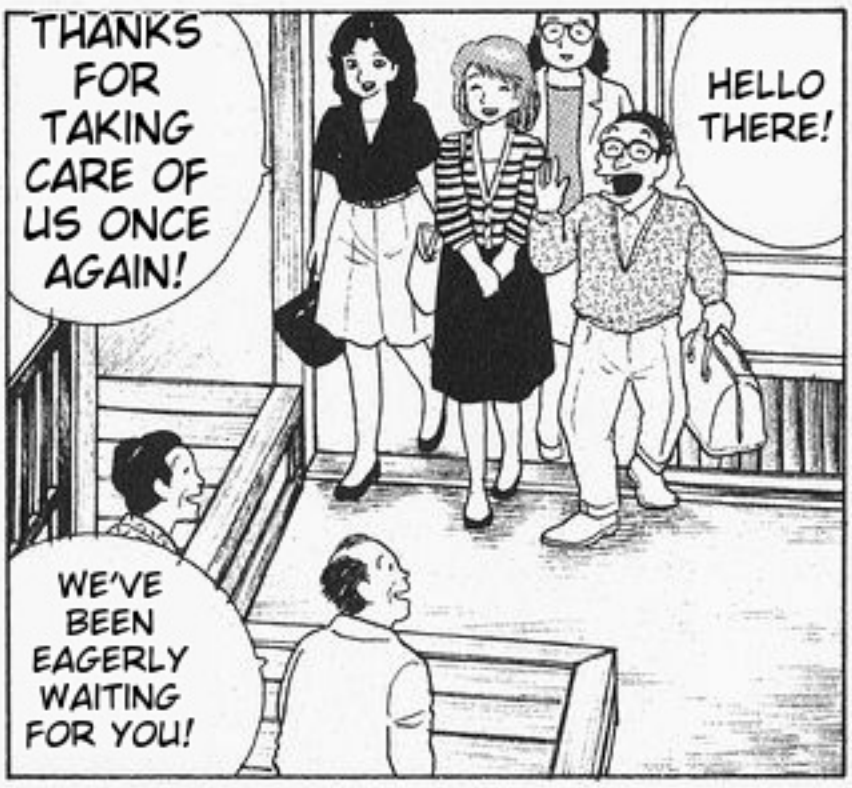
4

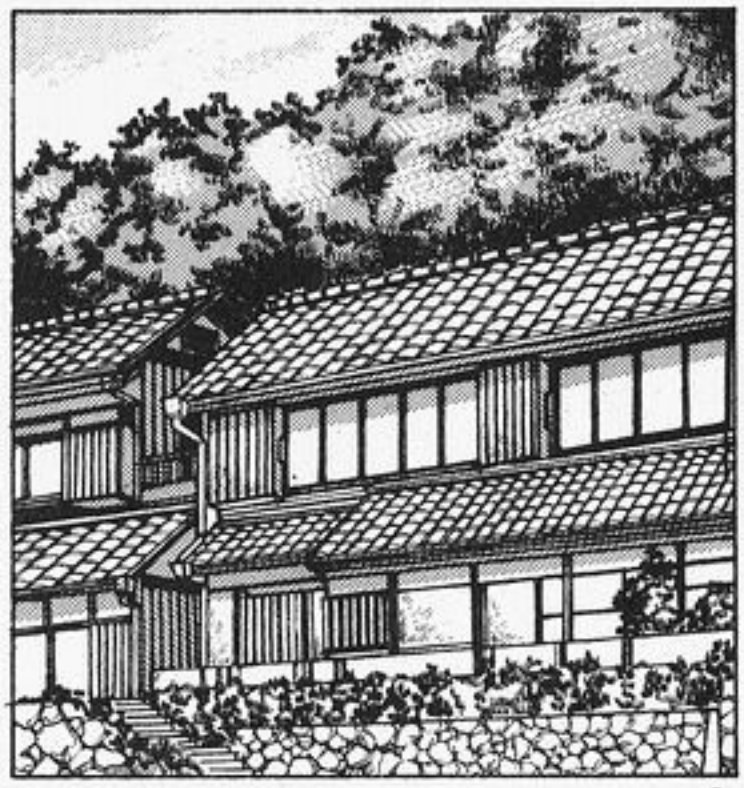
THEY'RE TRAINING HARD EVERY DAY AT THE TOWN GYM TO PREPARE FOR THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS!
JUST LOOK AT THEM, THERE'S CAPTAIN GONTAHARA AND VICE-CAPTAIN KANETSUME!

THE WOMEN'S JUDO CLUB OF BUI UNIVERSITY!
WHAT ON EARTH IS THAT?

DON'T THEY HAVE A CHAMPION FROM THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS IN THEIR RANKS?
OH, RIGHT! A POWERHOUSE IN WOMEN'S JUDO!

DELICIOUS ADVENTURE 12





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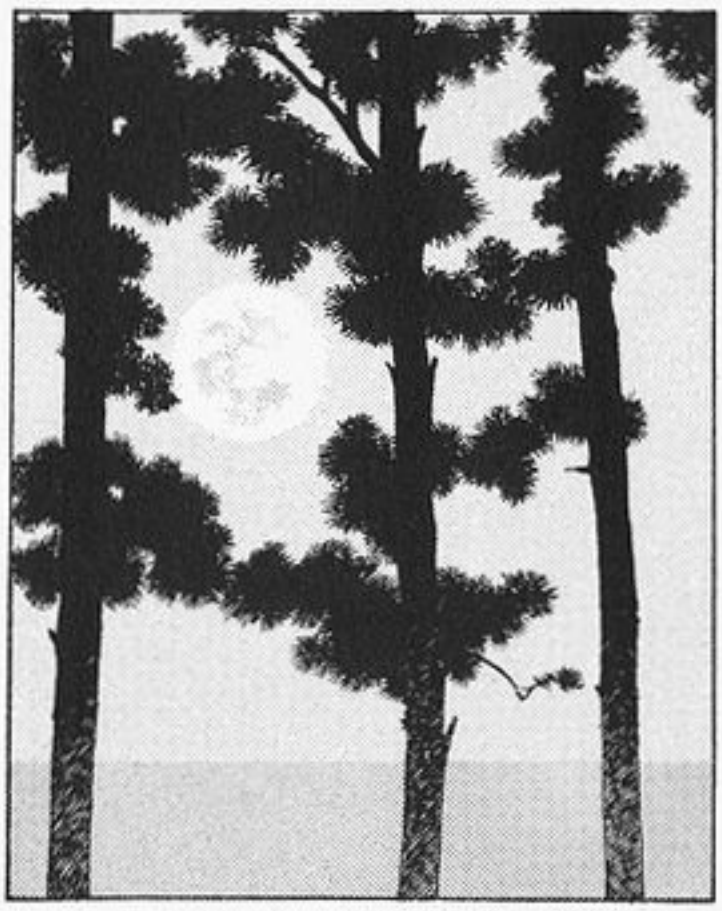

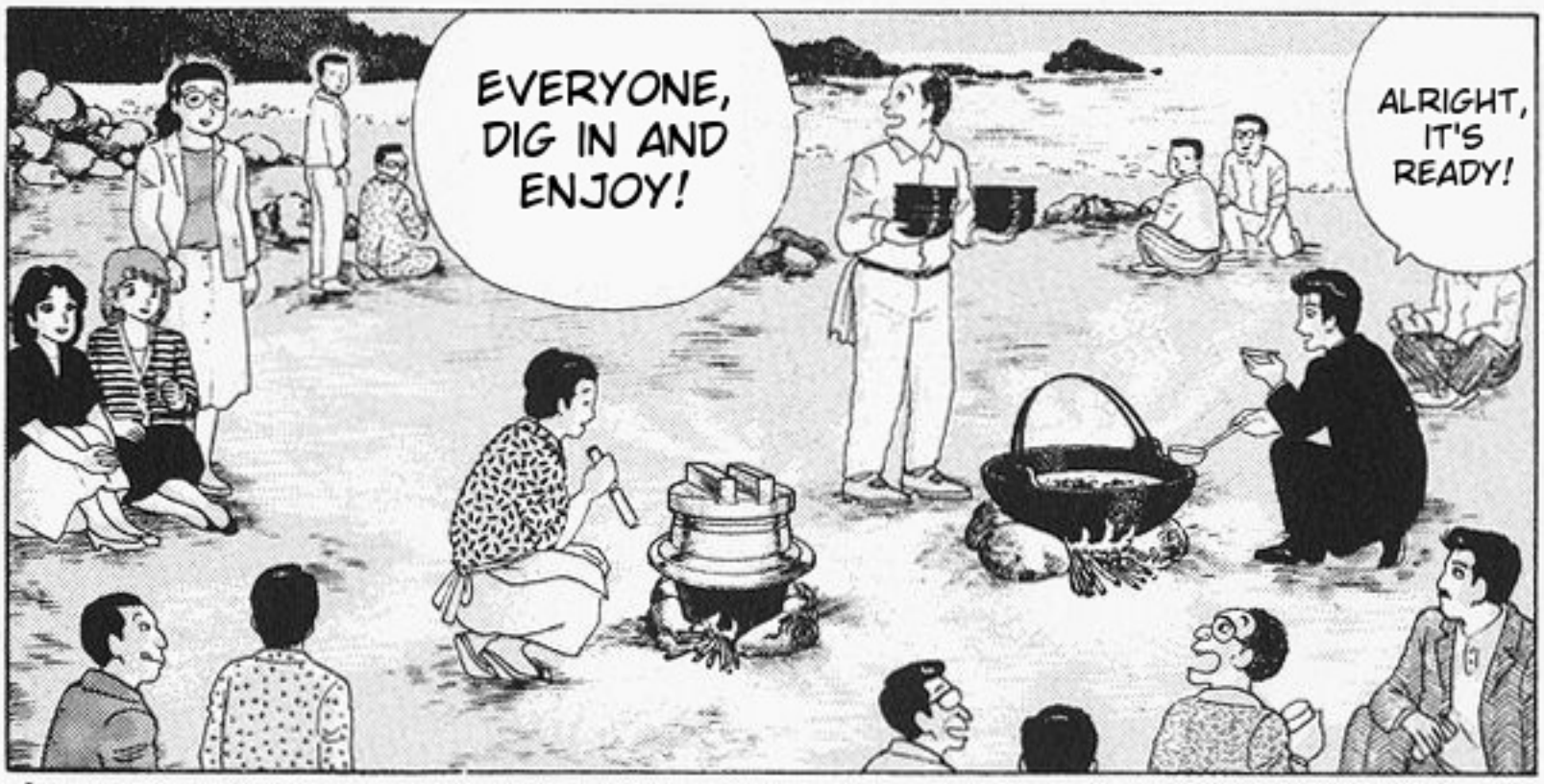
EVERYONE, DIG IN AND ENJOY!
ALRIGHT, IT'S READY!

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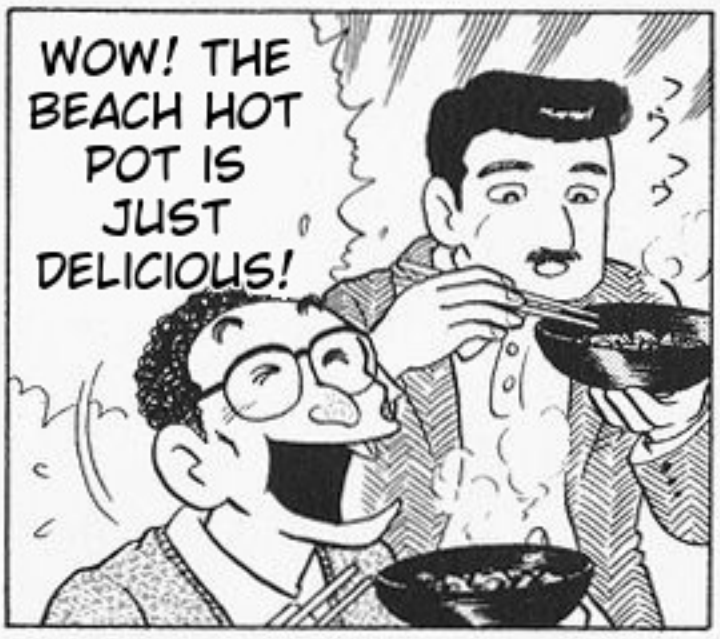
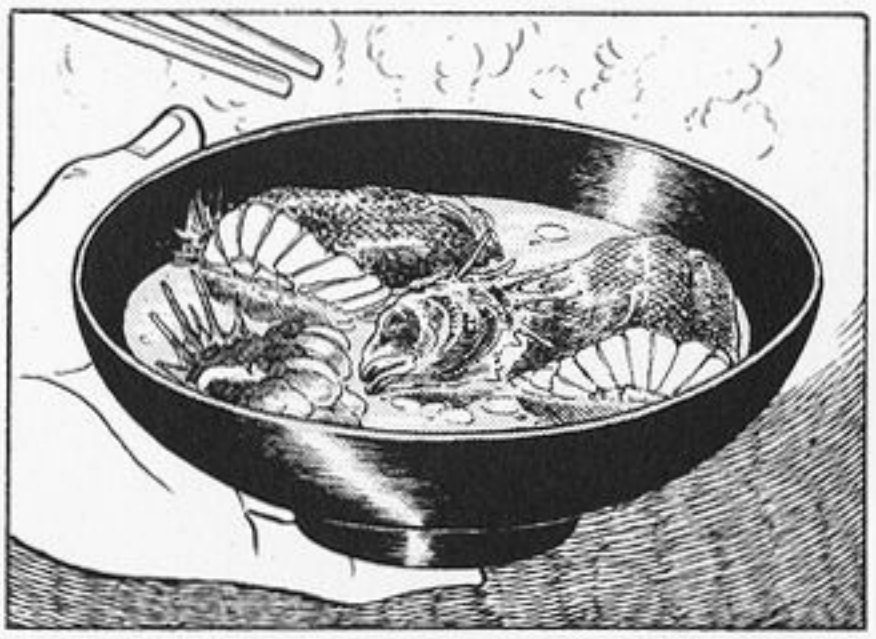
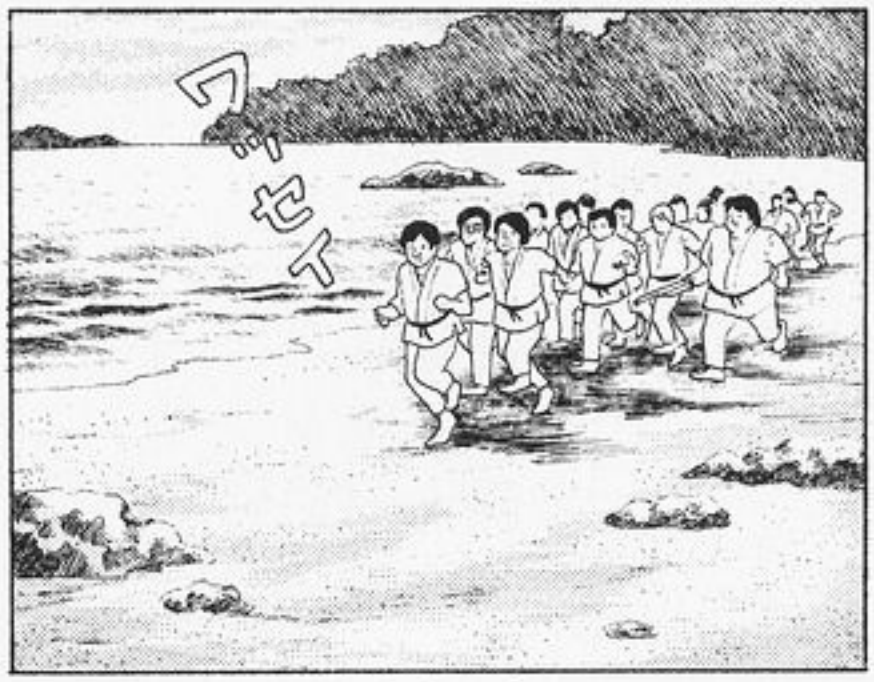
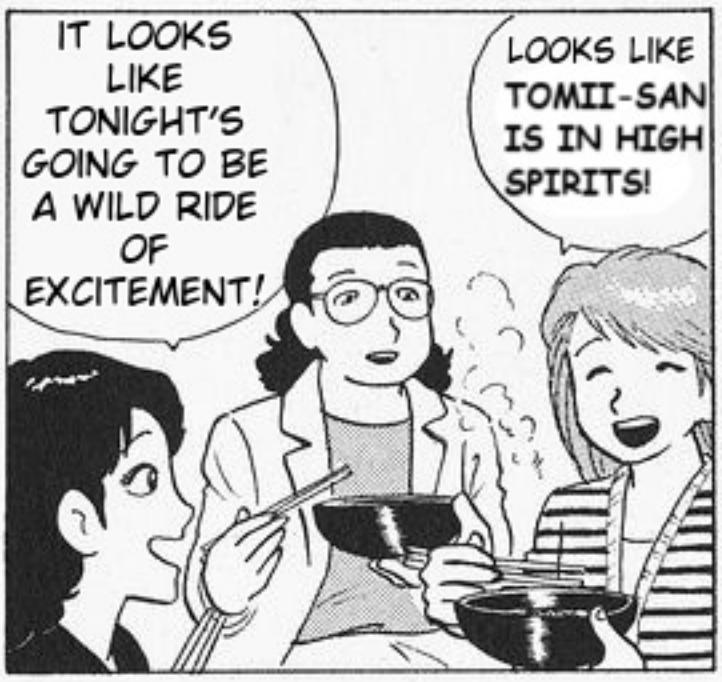
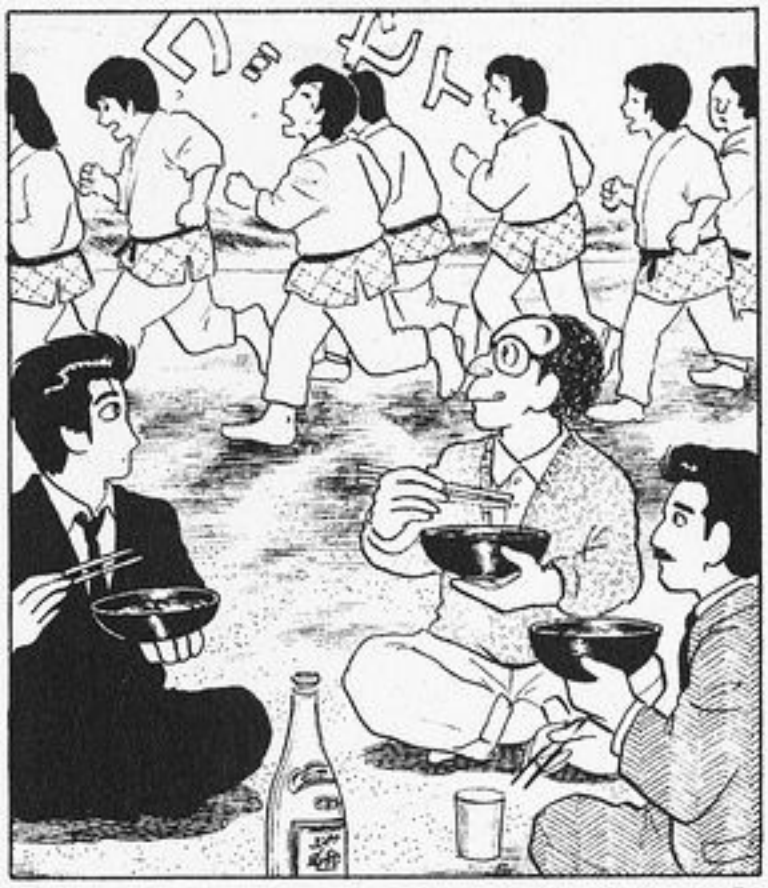

WOW! THE BEACH HOT POT IS JUST DELICIOUS!

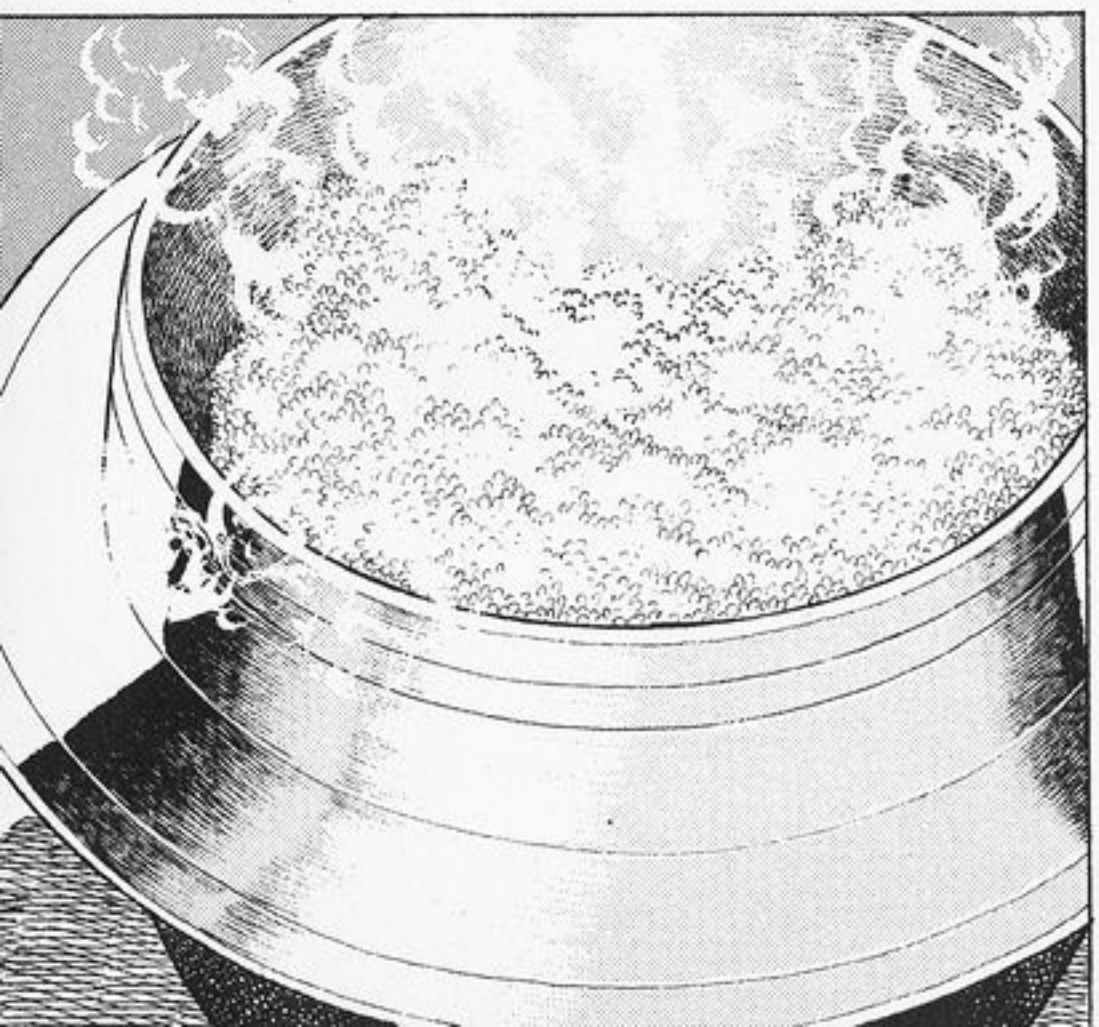


DELICIOUS ADVENTURE 12









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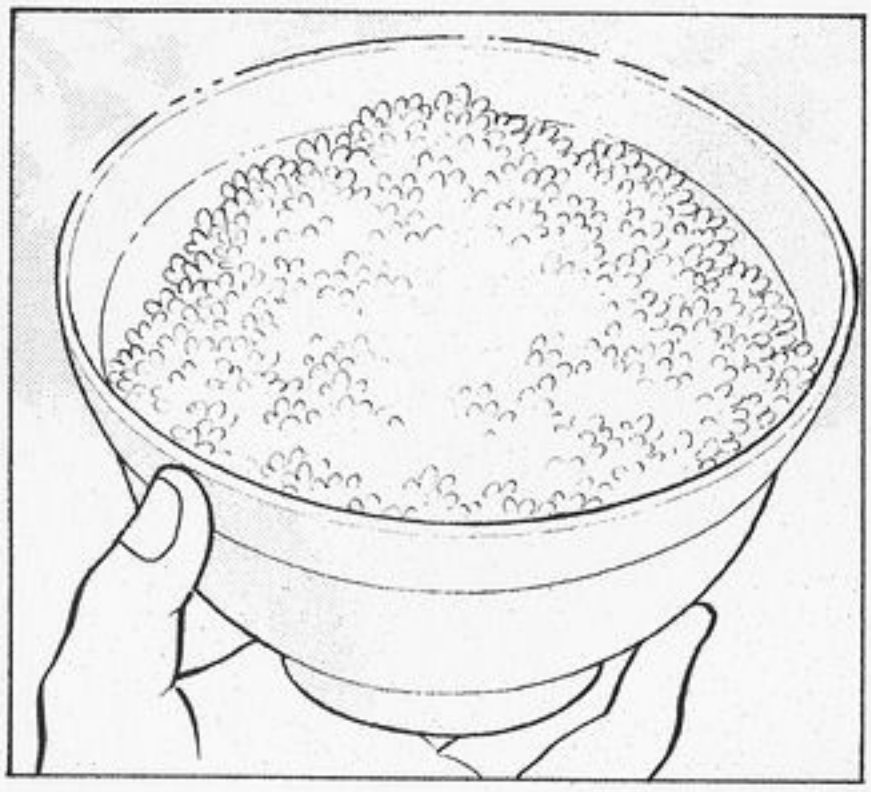
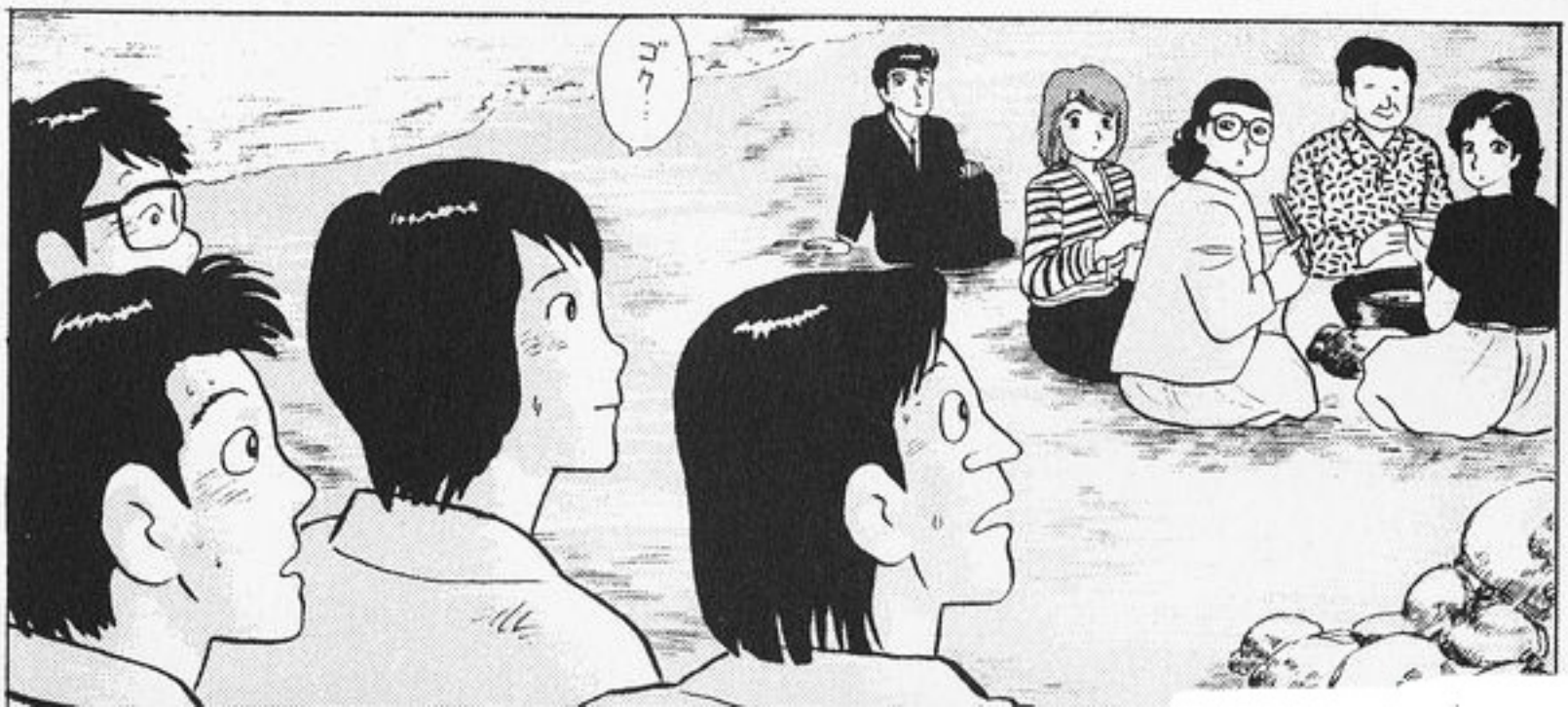
PERFECTLY FLUFFY AND WELL-COOKED!
OH WOW, WHAT A DELIGHTFUL AROMA!

MMM...

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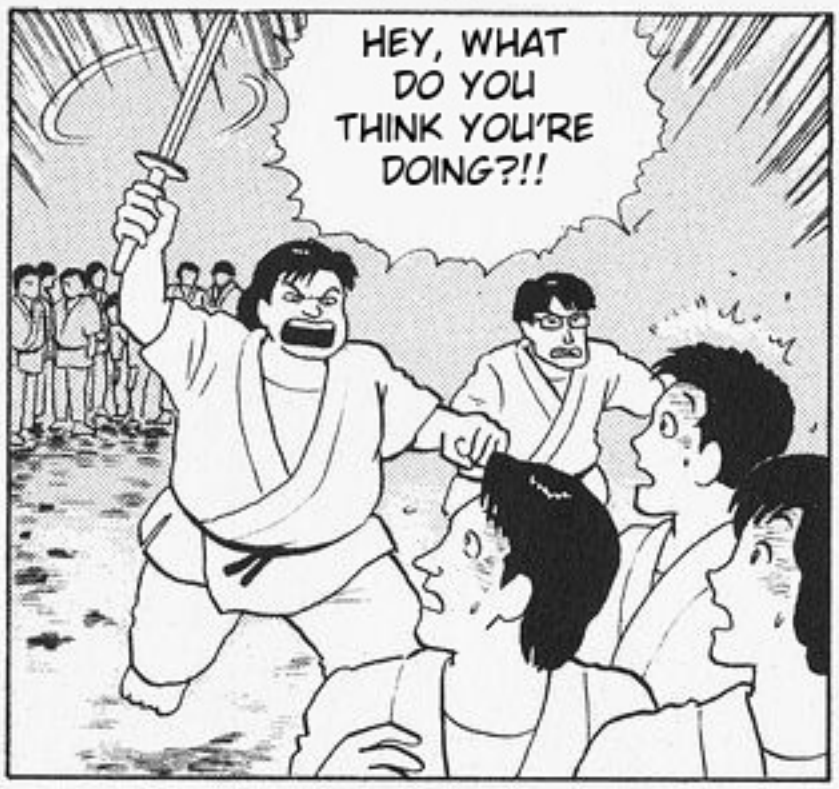
DELICIOUS ADVENTURE 12



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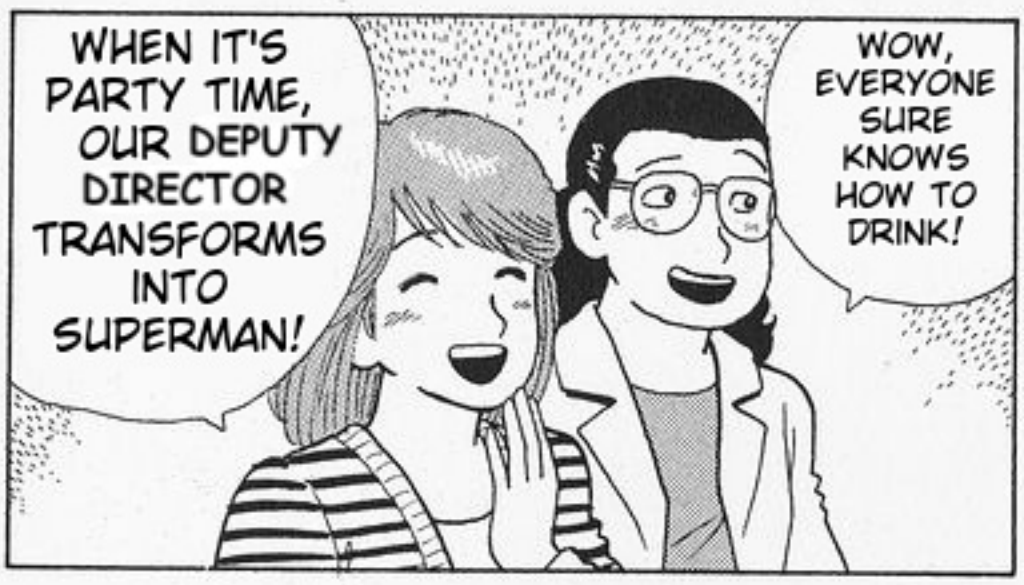
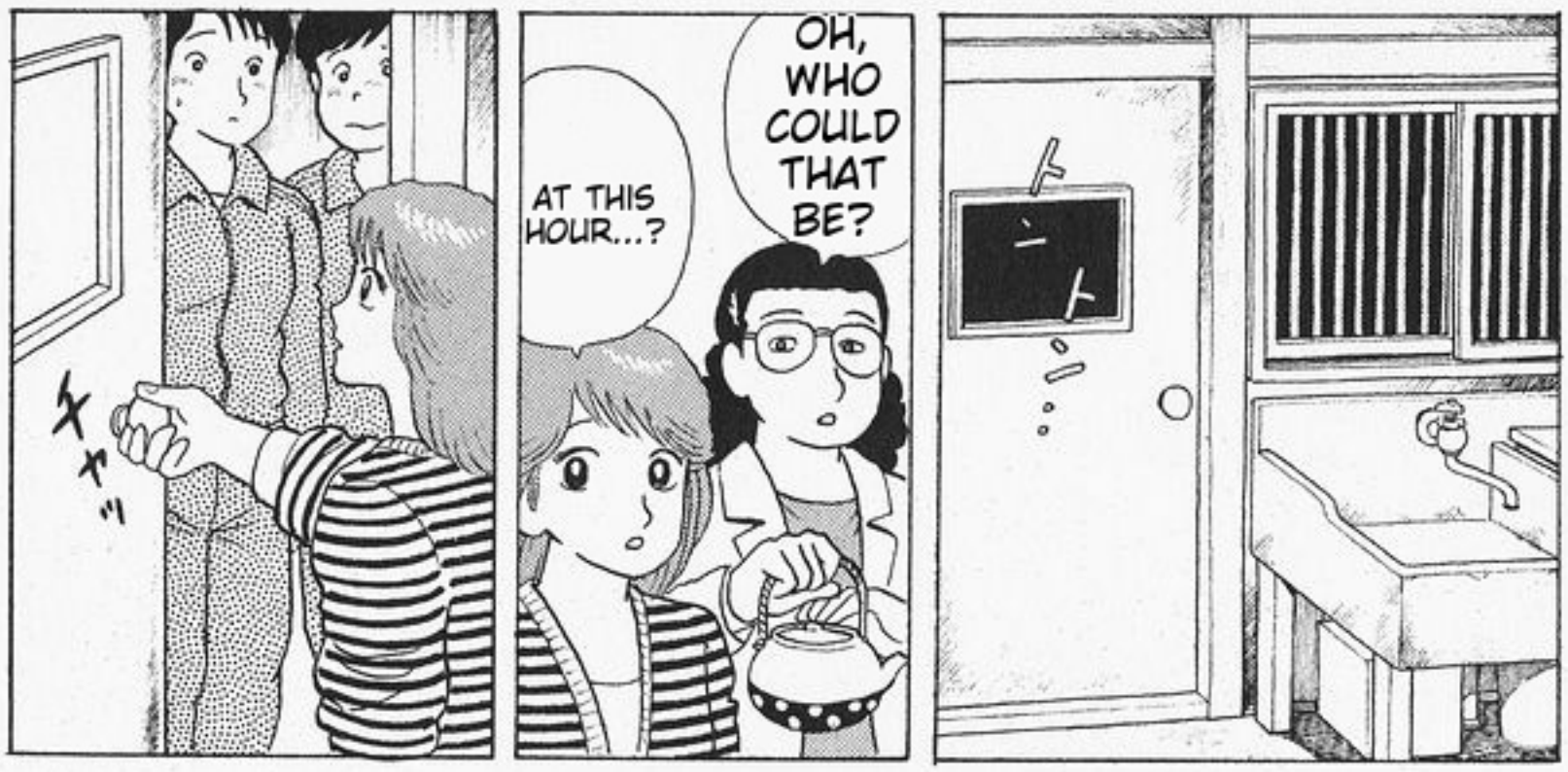
I'VE HAD MY FILL OF ALCOHOL; I'M CRAVING SOME TEA NOW.

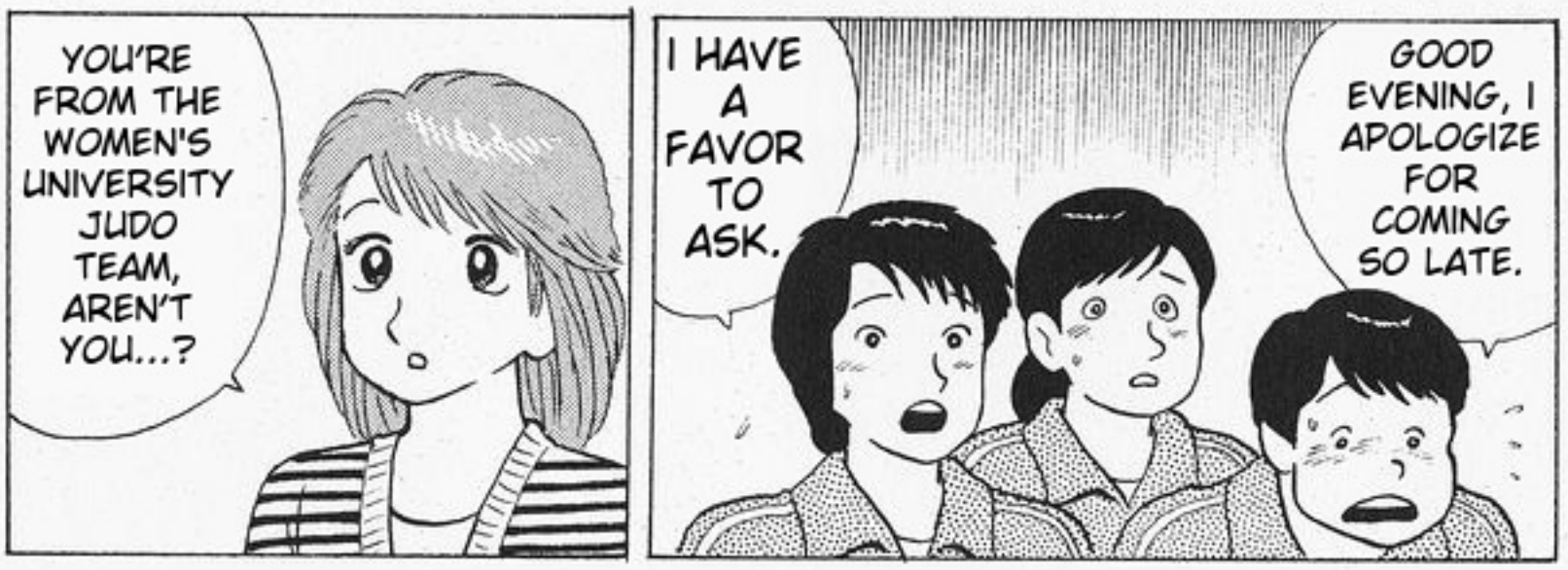

WHEN IT'S PARTY TIME, OUR DEPUTY DIRECTOR TRANSFORMS INTO SUPERMAN!
WOW, EVERYONE SURE KNOWS HOW TO DRINK!

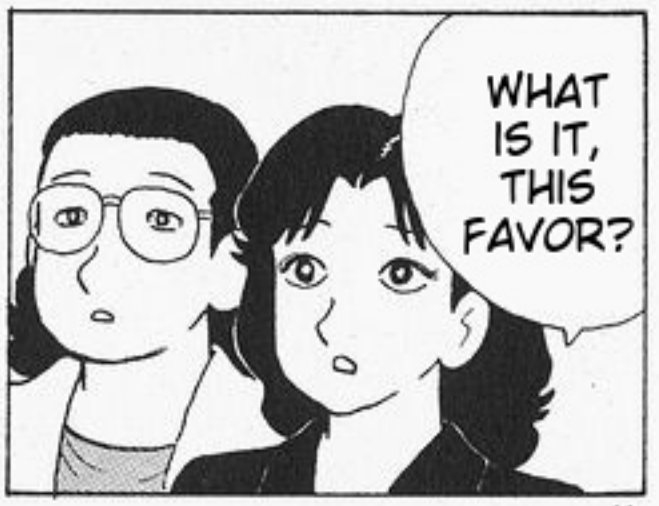
10

ME TOO!
WELL THEN, LET'S GO BREW SOME TEA!

DELICIOUS ADVENTURE 12







I DON'T MIND THAT, BUT...

WE'LL GLADLY PAY FOR IT!

PLEASE! WE HAVEN'T HAD PLAIN WHITE RICE IN AGES.

RICE?

JUST, PLEASE...

PLEASE!

12

ARE YOU REALLY SURE YOU DON'T WANT ANY SIDE DISHES? THERE'S STILL FISH AND SIMMERED VEGETABLES LEFT!

IF I HAVE SIDE DISHES, I WON'T BE ABLE TO APPRECIATE THE TASTE OF THE RICE...

NO, IT'S REALLY OKAY.

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'DELICIOUS ADVENTURE 12

I'M ONLY ALLOWED TO EAT BROWN RICE...

THE HARDEST PART FOR ME IS THE RICE.

IT'S ALL SO METICULOUSLY CALCULATED, YET I CAN'T INDULGE IN THE THINGS I LOVE.

AT A JUDO CAMP, THEY MUST SERVE PROPER MEALS, RIGHT?

WHY ON EARTH ARE YOU SO STARVED?

IT'S PITCH BLACK AND CRUMBLES APART, UTTERLY DISGUSTING AND ABSOLUTELY INEDIBLE.

NO MATTER HOW HEALTHY THEY SAY IT IS...

AH, BROWN RICE, HUH...

13

THOSE EYES FIXED ON THE RICE WERE ANYTHING BUT ORDINARY.

I SEE... SO YOU'VE BEEN STARVING FOR THAT WHITE RICE, HUH?

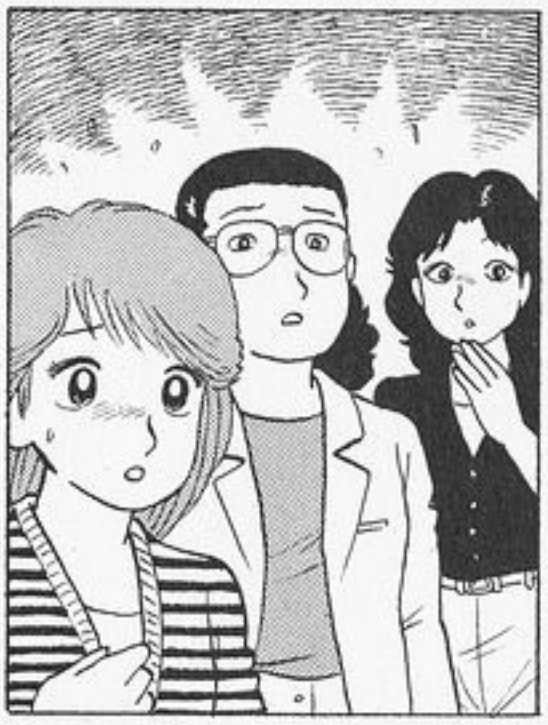
AFTER A WEEK OF BEING FORCED TO EAT BROWN RICE EVERY SINGLE DAY, MY BODY IS REBELLING MORE AND MORE...

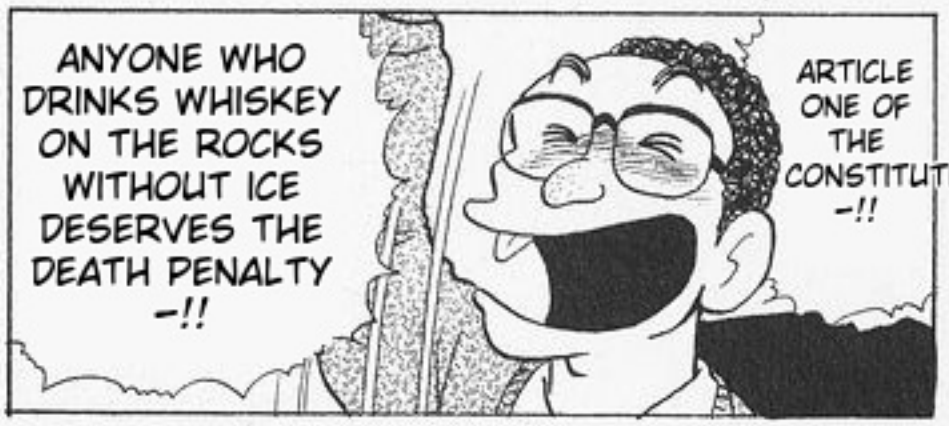
NO MATTER HOW GOOD IT IS FOR THE BODY, IF YOU CAN'T EAT IT, WHAT CAN YOU DO...?

NO MATTER HOW HUNGRY I GET, MY BODY JUST WON'T ACCEPT IT.

I SAW SOMEONE ENTER THIS HOUSE!!
SO YOU REALLY WERE HERE AFTER ALL!!
YOU LOT!
WHILE LEAVING FOOD AT THE TRAINING CAMP, YOU DARE TO INDULGE IN PLAIN RICE HERE?!
I TOLD YOU TIME AND AGAIN THAT PLAIN RICE IS BAD FOR YOUR HEALTH, YET HERE YOU ARE!?
YOU GREEDY LITTLE PIGS!!
I-I'M SO SORRY...!!

DELICIOUS ADVENTURE 12





THIS DRUNKEN FOOL!!

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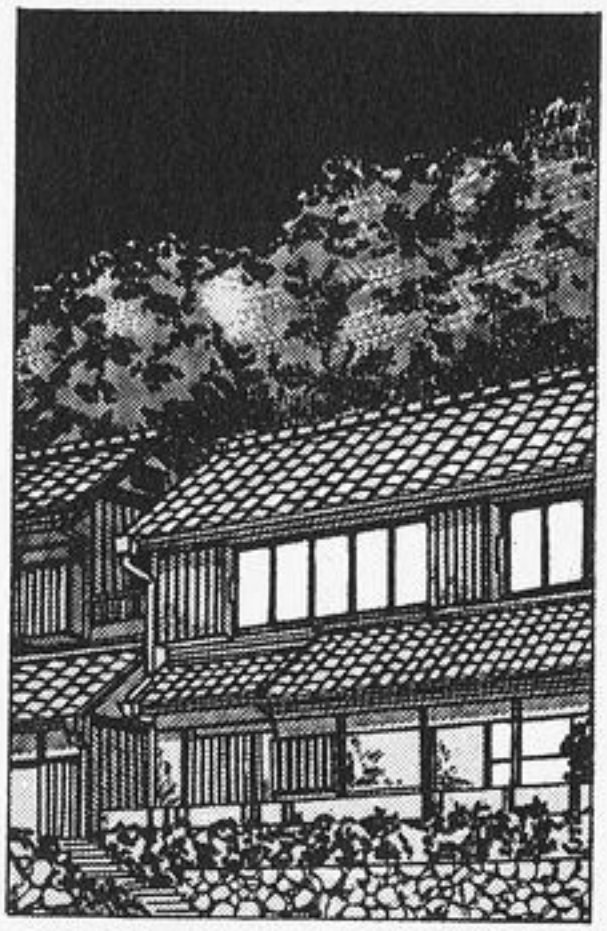
TOMII-SAN!!!

WHOA, YAMAOKA-SAN!!

DELICIOUS ADVENTURE 12



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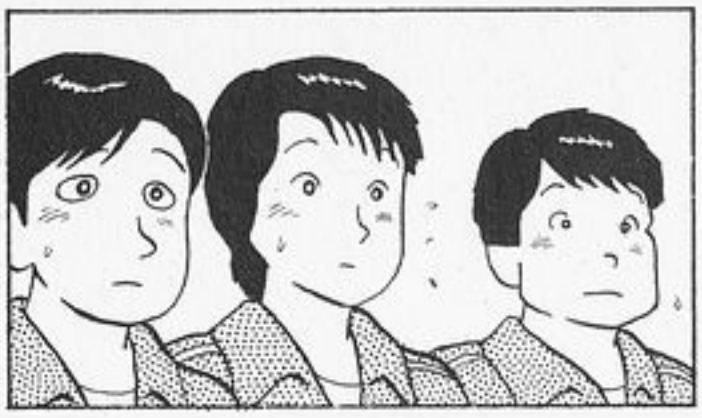
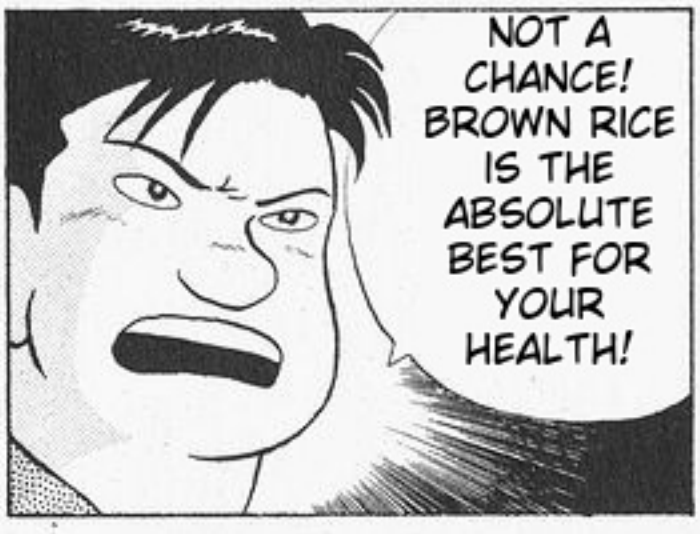
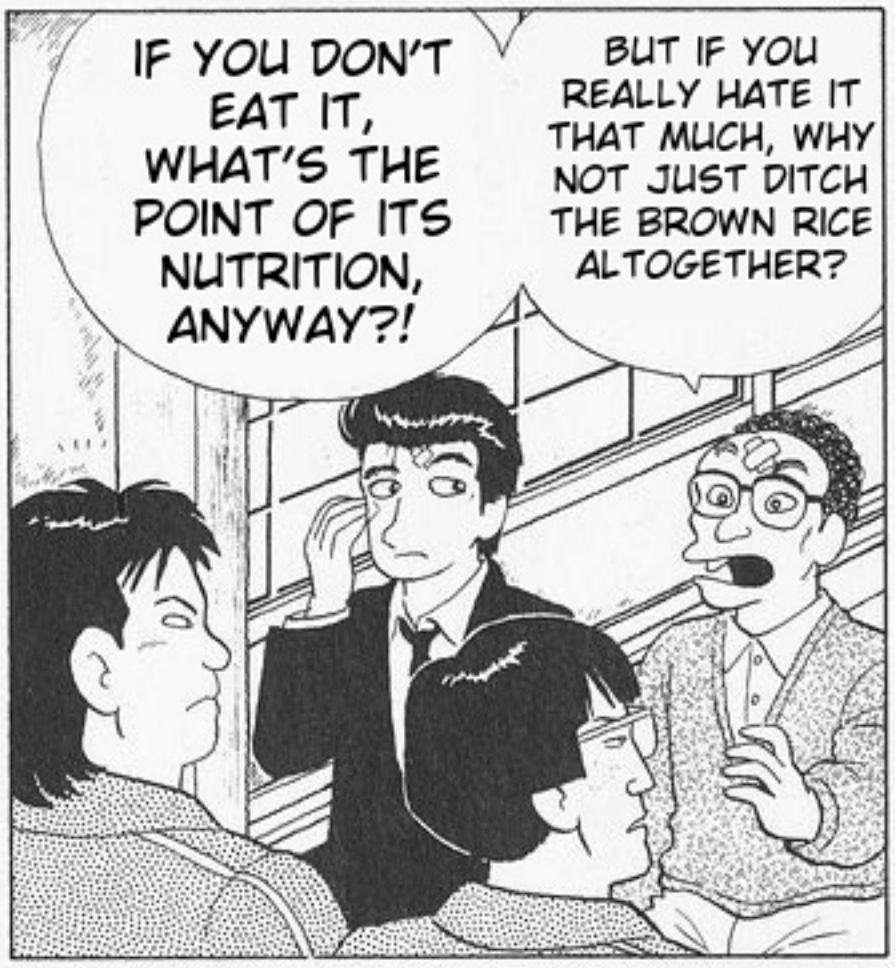
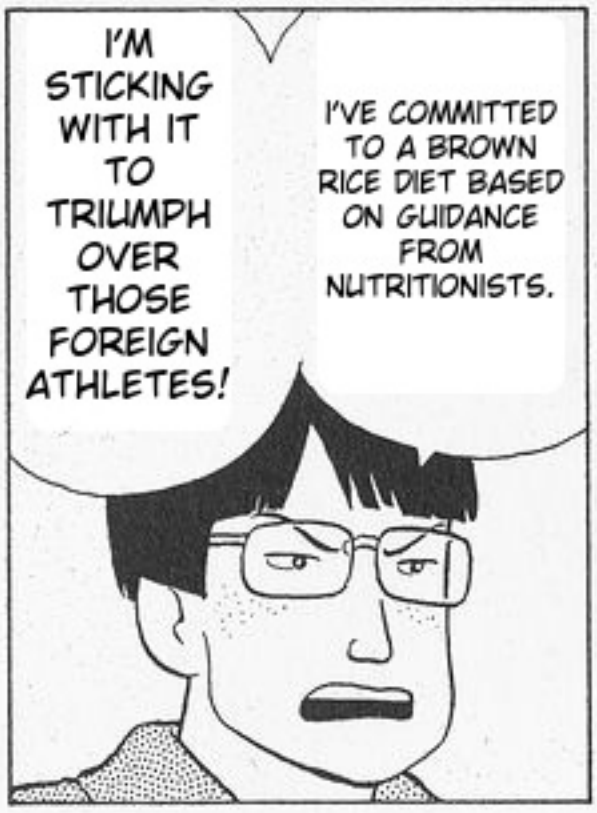
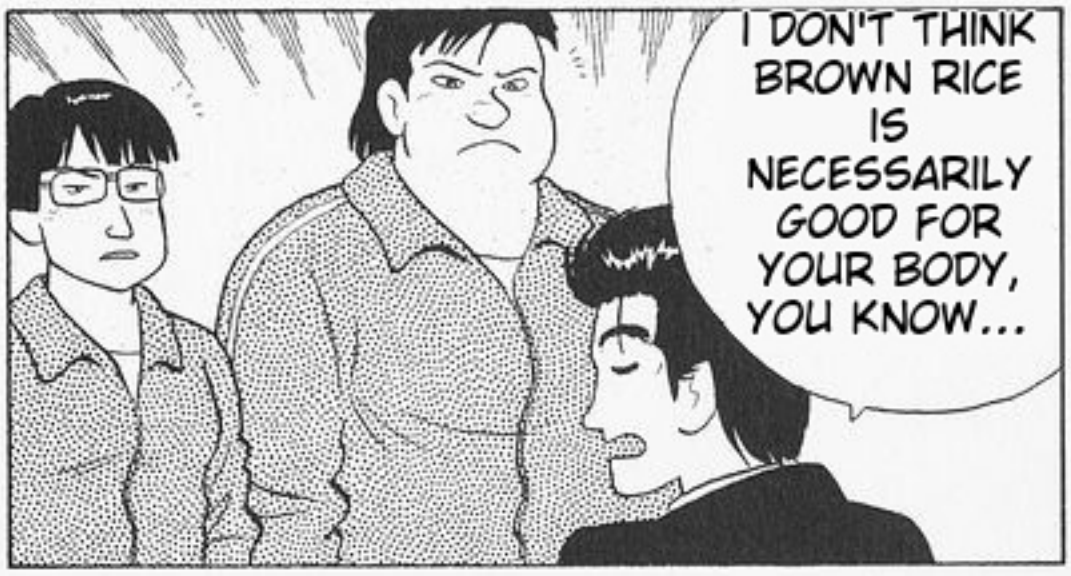



NOT A CHANCE! BROWN RICE IS THE ABSOLUTE BEST FOR YOUR HEALTH!

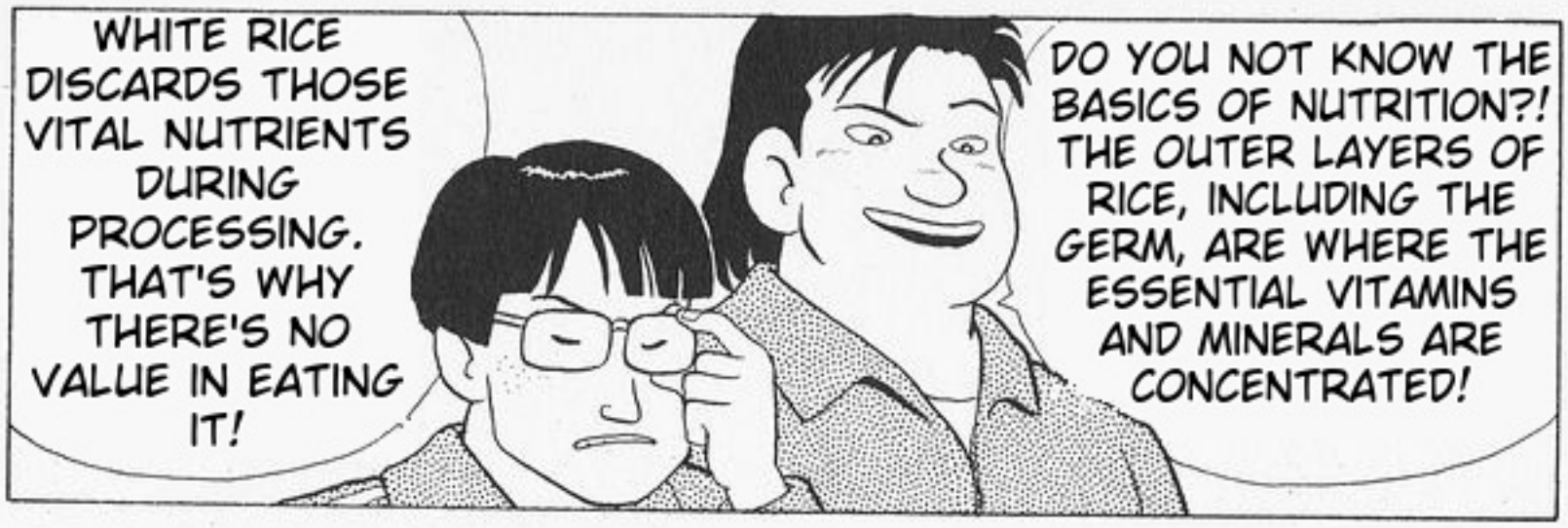

IF YOU DON'T EAT IT, WHAT'S THE POINT OF ITS NUTRITION, ANYWAY?!
BUT IF YOU REALLY HATE IT THAT MUCH, WHY NOT JUST DITCH THE BROWN RICE ALTOGETHER?

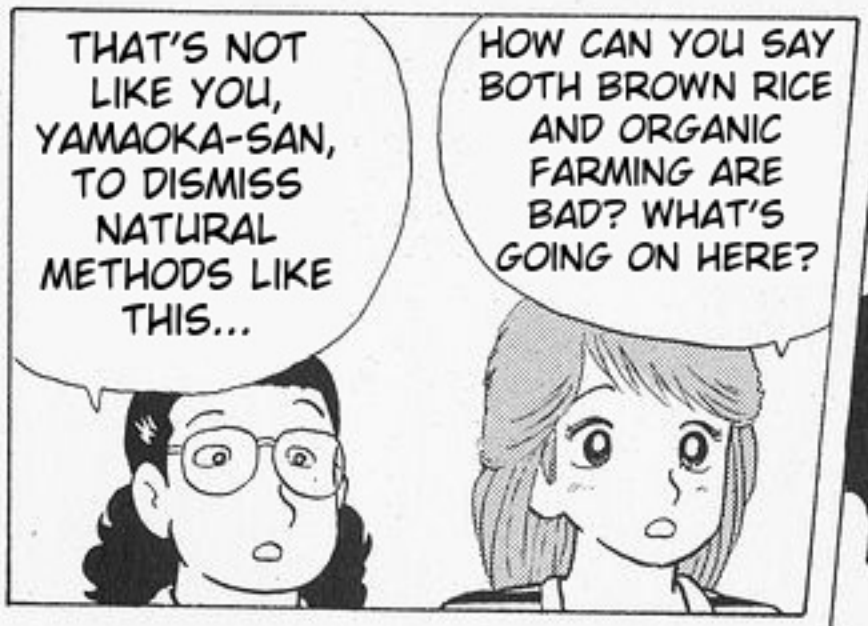
WITH THAT KIND OF SOFT-HEARTED ATTITUDE, YOU WON'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST FOREIGN COMPETITORS!!
DISLIKING BROWN RICE JUST BECAUSE IT DOESN'T TASTE GOOD IS SUCH A WEAK EXCUSE.


I'M STICKING WITH IT TO TRIUMPH OVER THOSE FOREIGN ATHLETES!
I'VE COMMITTED TO A BROWN RICE DIET BASED ON GUIDANCE FROM NUTRITIONISTS.


I DON'T THINK BROWN RICE IS NECESSARILY GOOD FOR YOUR BODY, YOU KNOW...

DELICIOUS ADVENTURE 12





THE REAL BROWN RICE DIET!?

ALRIGHT, I'M GOING TO TEACH YOU ALL ABOUT THE REAL BROWN RICE DIET.

IF THIS TURNS OUT TO BE A LOAD OF NONSENSE, I'LL KNOCK YOU OUT WITH A SUBMISSION HOLD NEXT TIME!!

LET'S SEE IF YOU CAN ACTUALLY SERVE US THIS SO-CALLED TRUE BROWN RICE DIET!!

I'LL SHOW YOU THAT TRUE BROWN RICE CAN BE DELICIOUS!

YOU BETTER BE READY FOR THIS.

WE THINK IT'S ABSOLUTELY DREADFUL AND UNBEARABLE...

YOU SAY BROWN RICE IS DELICIOUS?

HEH HEH... JUST WAIT AND SEE.

WHAT DOES THAT EVEN MEAN?

HOW CAN YOU TEACH US THE REAL BROWN RICE DIET WHEN YOU'VE DISMISSED BOTH BROWN RICE AND ORGANIC FARMING...

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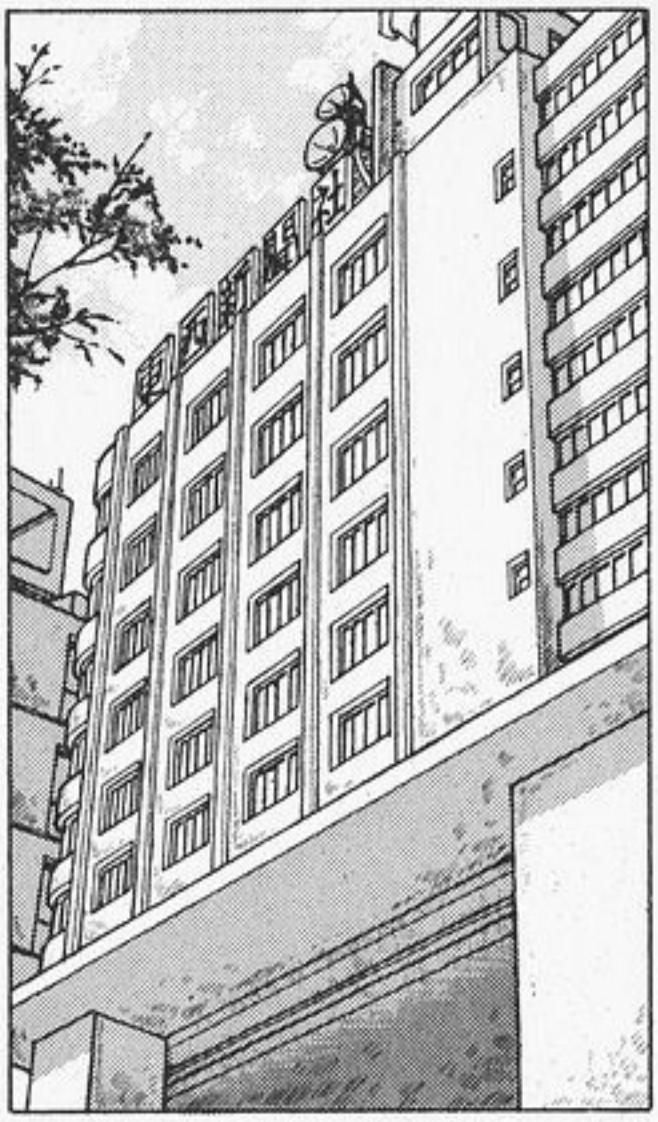
YES, THIS IS THE CULTURAL DEPARTMENT.



YES... I UNDERSTAND...
HUH?

HUH?...
YAMAOKA-SAN, THEY'RE HERE!

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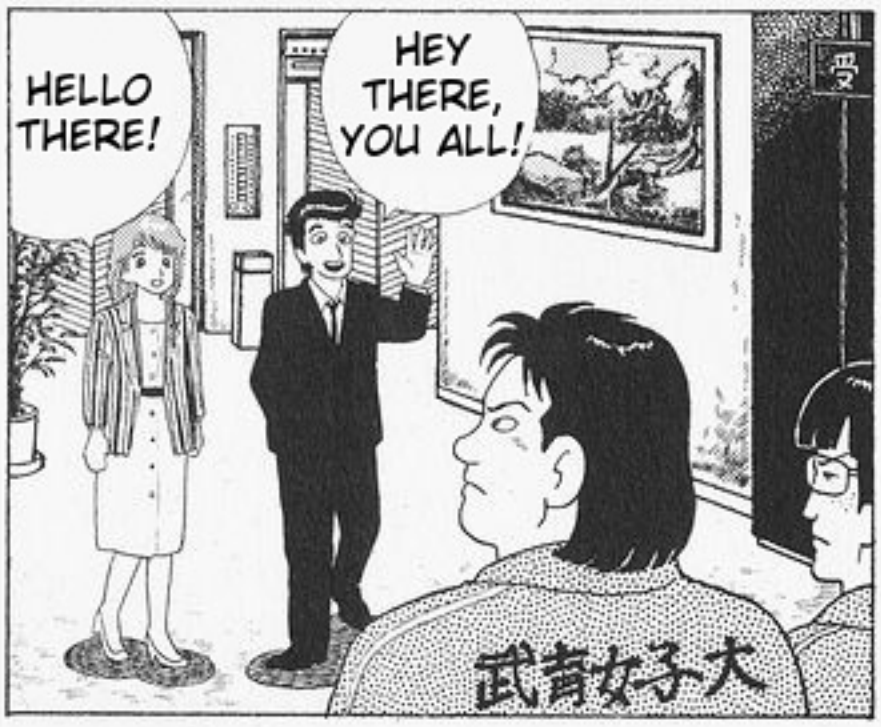
DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 12



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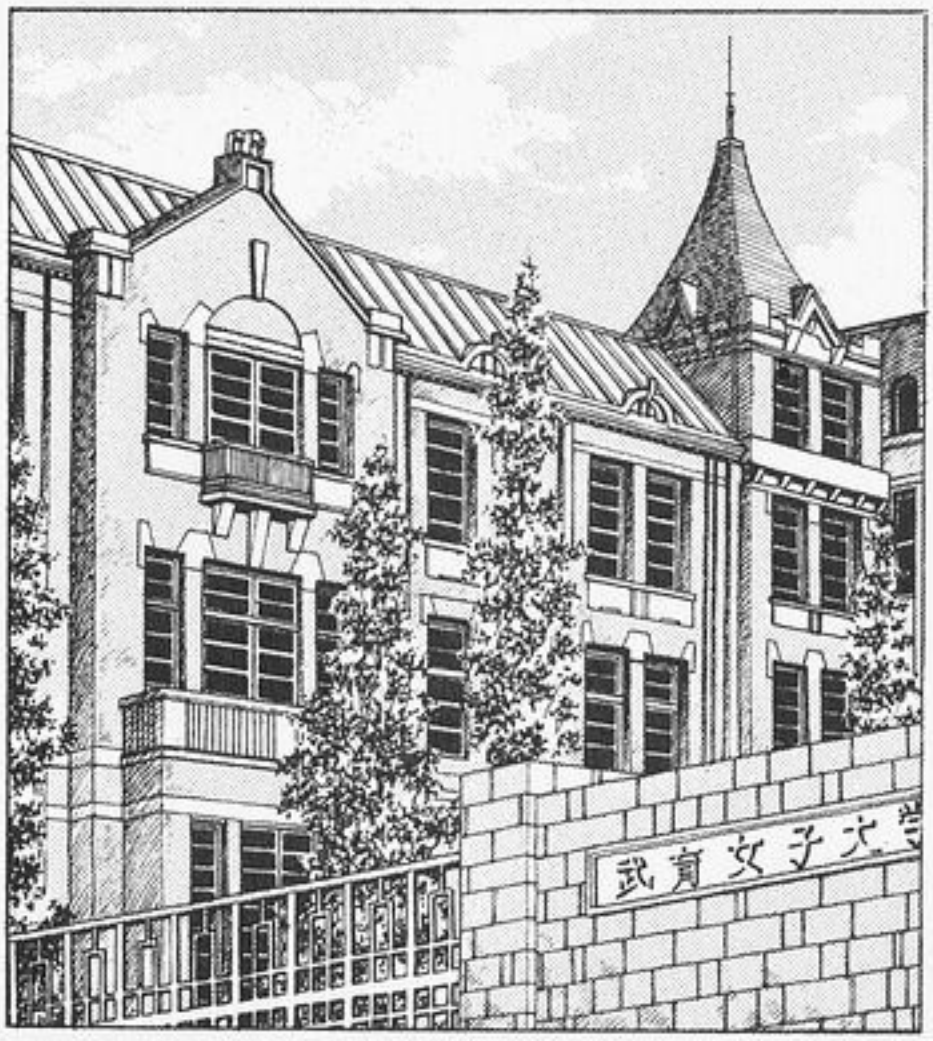

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THROUGH THE WEEK, LIKE A SIP OF SWEET NECTAR I
WHERE DOES THE SPIRIT SOAR TO BECOME WHOLE?
SOFTNESS CAN MASTER THE HARD.
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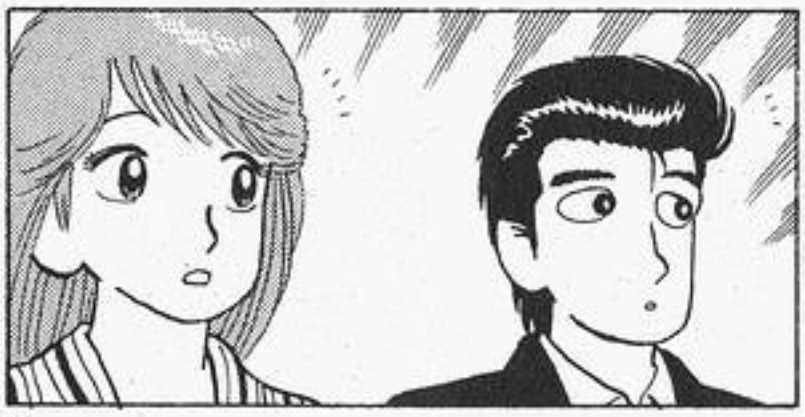
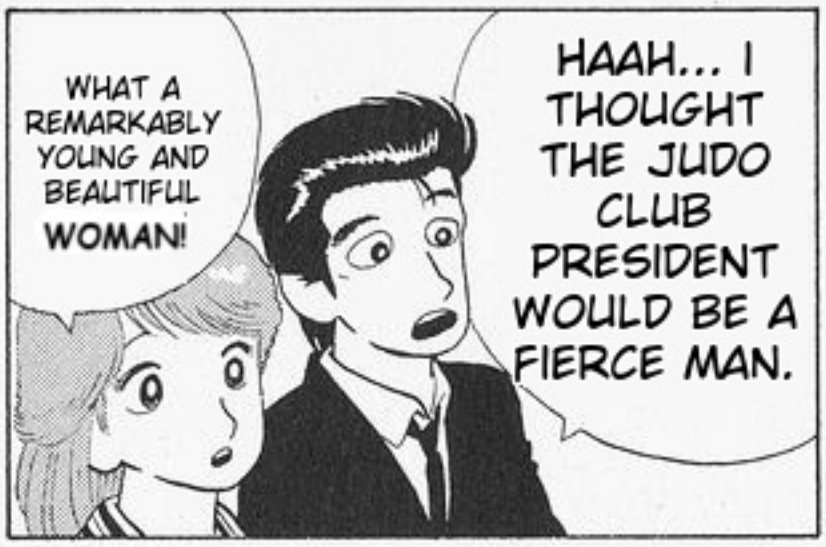
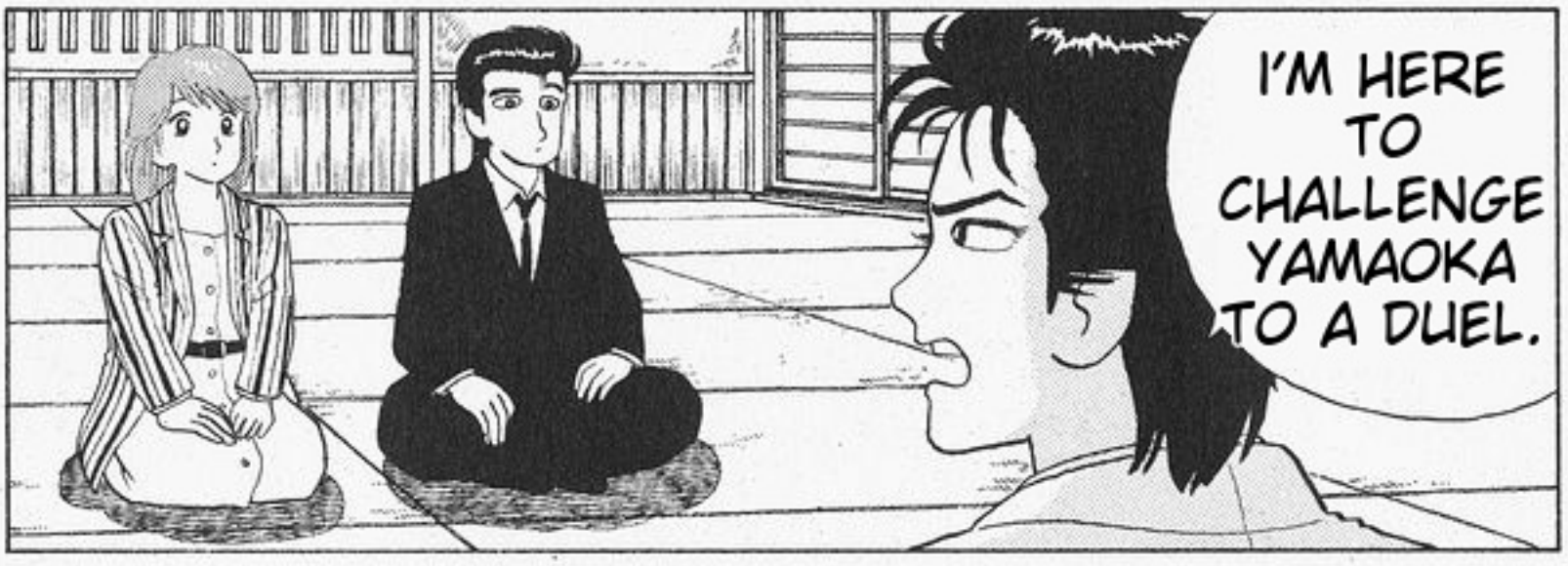
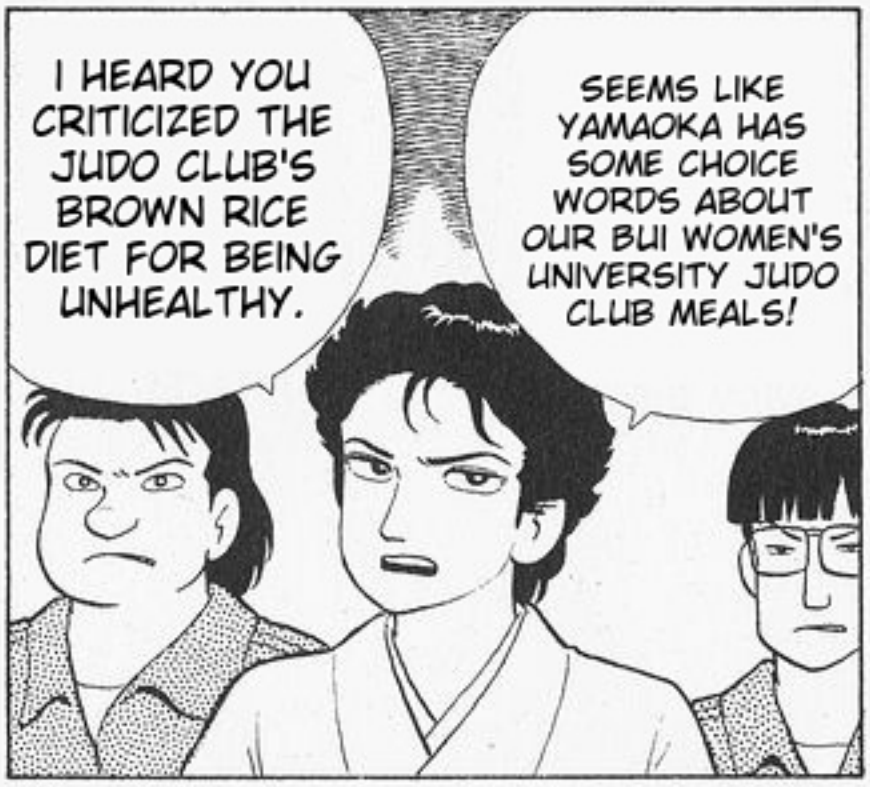


DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 12







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I'M NO AMATEUR; I'M AN ASSISTANT IN THE NUTRITION DEPARTMENT AT THIS UNIVERSITY!!

HUH? YOU'RE A NUTRITION PROFESSOR...?!

BECAUSE THE BROWN RICE MEALS IN THE JUDO CLUB WERE MY OWN GUIDANCE!

THAT'S AN INSULT DIRECTED AT ME!

I JUST POINTED OUT THE COMMON MISTAKES AMATEURS MAKE.

AH, IS THAT SO...? BUT DON'T BLOW IT OUT OF PROPORTION BY SAYING I INSULTED YOU...

I PROMISED TO TEACH YOU WHY YOUR JUDO CLUB'S BROWN RICE MEALS ARE A DISASTER, AND WHAT TRULY DELICIOUS AND HEALTHY BROWN RICE SHOULD BE LIKE!

WAIT, WAIT A MINUTE!

THIS IS A SHOWDOWN, NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES!!

I AM AN EXPERT IN NUTRITION! AND YOU CALLING ME AN AMATEUR IS AN INSULT!

6

DON'T BE RIDICULOUS, YOU'RE HERE RIGHT NOW!

TO SORT THIS OUT, WE'LL NEED TO LOOK AROUND, SO LET'S SET A DATE THAT'S CONVENIENT FOR BOTH OF US...

DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 12

I'M FINE WITH FIGHTING BAREHANDED, BUT IF YOU INSIST, FEEL FREE TO USE A SWORD OR SPEAR.

NOW, RISE TO YOUR FEET.

WAIT, I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT YOU!

AS A WARRIOR, I CANNOT RETREAT AND ALLOW MY PRIDE TO BE WOUNDED!

NO NEGOTIATIONS, THE MIYAMOTO FAMILY HAS BEEN A HOUSE OF WARRIORS FOR GENERATIONS.

ENOUGH!! YOU DARE TO CHALLENGE ME, AND NOW, YOU EXPECT ME TO TURN MY BACK? STAND UP AND FACE ME ALREADY!!

HOLY CRAP, THOSE ARE DANGEROUS!

7

JUST THE OTHER DAY, THAT FELLOW OVER THERE, GONTAHARA-SAN, COMPLETELY WIPED THE FLOOR WITH HIM.

BUT YOU SEE, THIS MAN IS TRULY WEAK...

UGH...!

HUH?

IF WE PROCEED LIKE THIS, YOUR HONOR AS A MARTIAL ARTIST WILL BE TARNISHED.

PLEASE WAIT, MIYAMOTO-SENSEI!

THAT'S DEFINITELY TRUE...

I THINK IT WOULD BE BETTER TO CONSIDER ADDING DIVINE PUNISHMENT TO YAMAOKA INSTEAD OF A DUEL.

THAT'S HARDLY A MATTER OF HONOR FOR HER.

IF A MASTER CHALLENGES SOMEONE HER APPRENTICE CAN EASILY HANDLE,

WHEN A LION TAKES DOWN A NAUGHTY MOUSE, ITS HONOR REMAINS UN-TARNISHED, YOU SEE.

I GET IT NOW... IF A LION CHALLENGES A MOUSE TO A DUEL, IT TARNISHES THE LION'S REPUTATION,

W-WAIT! WHAT DOES THAT MEAN FOR ME...?

OH, YOU'RE QUITE CONFIDENT, AREN'T YOU? THEN WHAT'S THE WORRY!

DON'T GO DECIDING THINGS ON YOUR OWN!

8

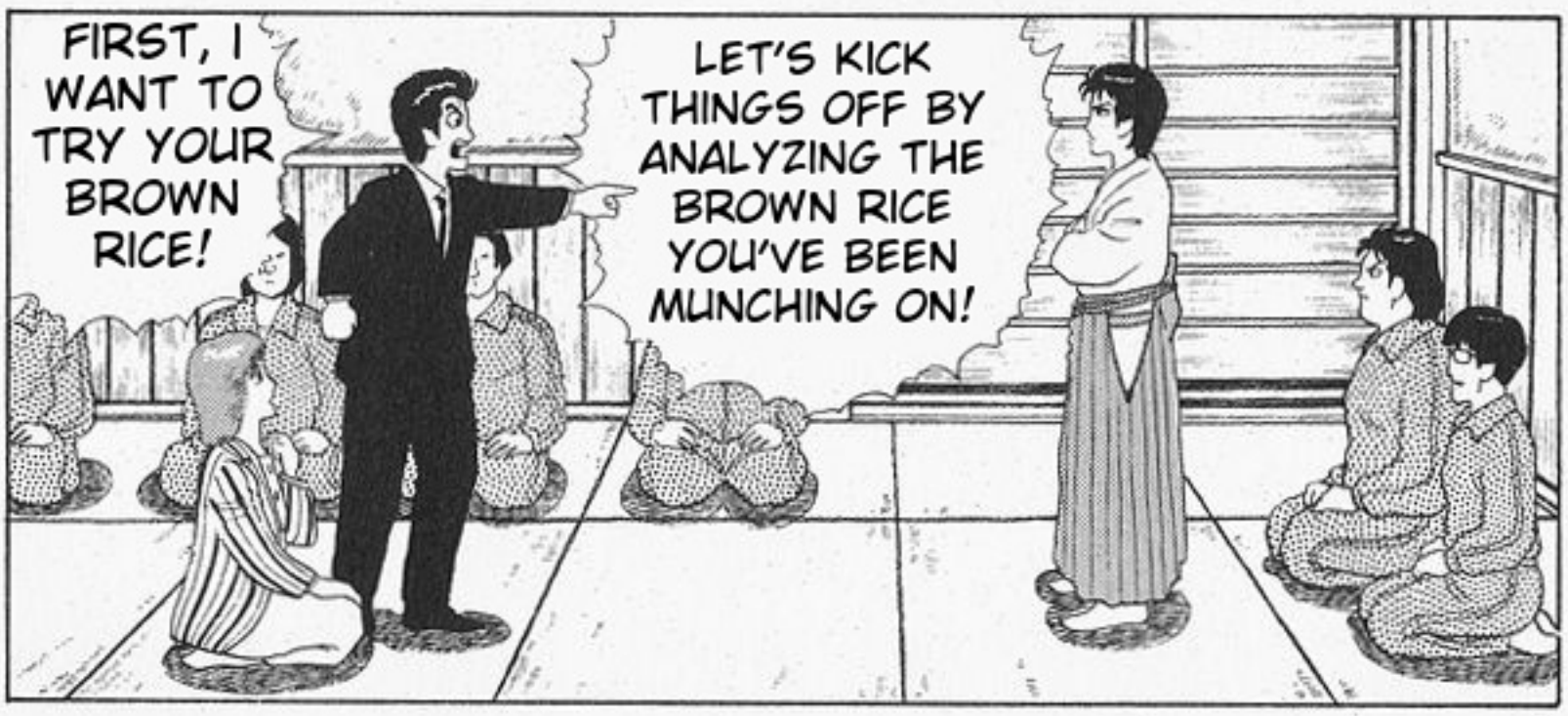
HMM...

HE PROMISED HE WOULD TEACH THE TRUE ART OF BROWN RICE TO GONTAHARA AND THE OTHERS.

BUT BEFORE WE DELIVER THAT DIVINE PUNISHMENT, I WANT TO GIVE YAMAOKA ANOTHER CHANCE.

IF THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE, THEN I CAN SERVE HIM UP HOWEVER YOU DESIRE— BOILED OR GRILLED, YOUR CHOICE!

DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 12



CHEMICAL RESEARCH LAB.

A FEW DAYS LATER...

.....

HEY, HAVE YOU FINISHED ANALYZING THE BROWN RICE I GAVE YOU?

試育女子大

山岡

YEAH, IT'S ALL SET!

10

ON THE OTHER HAND, THE BROWN RICE IN THE BAG LABELED WOMEN'S UNIVERSITY' HAS SOME ISSUES.

THIS IS THE RICE I ALWAYS EAT.

WELL, FROM THE BAG MARKED 'YAMAOKA,' NOTHING PROBLEMATIC CAME UP.

DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 12

PLUS, ANTIBIOTICS WERE FOUND AS WELL.

PESTICIDES?! ARE YOU KIDDING ME?!

PESTICIDES ARE PRESENT.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN ISSUES?

BUT WE ACTUALLY DETECTED IT, YOU KNOW.

I BET YAMAOKA-SAN GOT YOU TO MAKE UP SOME BULLSHIT DATA!!!

THIS RICE WAS GROWN USING ORGANIC FARMING METHODS!! THERE'S NO WAY ANY PESTICIDES OR ANTIBIOTICS COULD BE LEFT IN THIS RICE!!

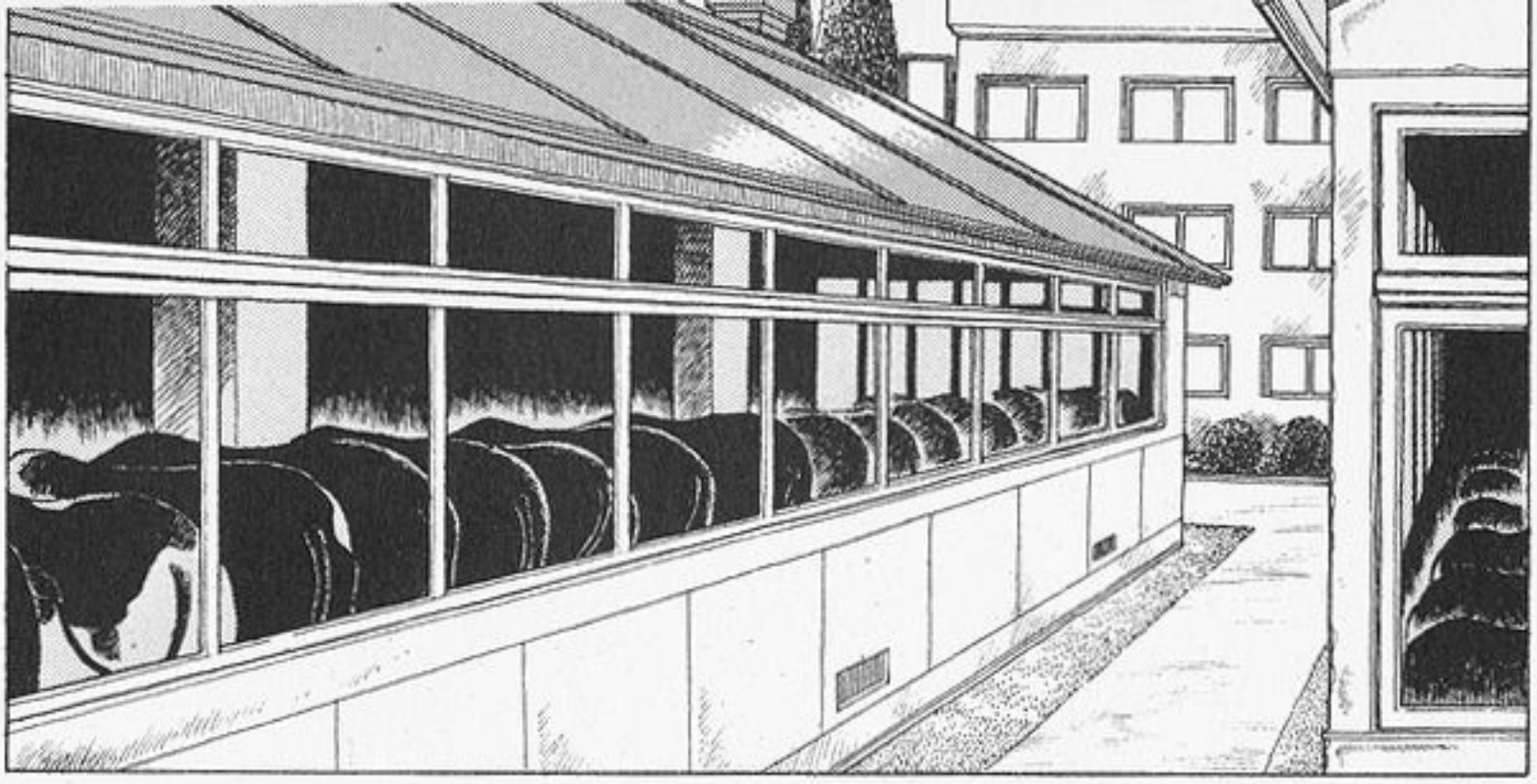
THAT'S A TOTAL LIE!!

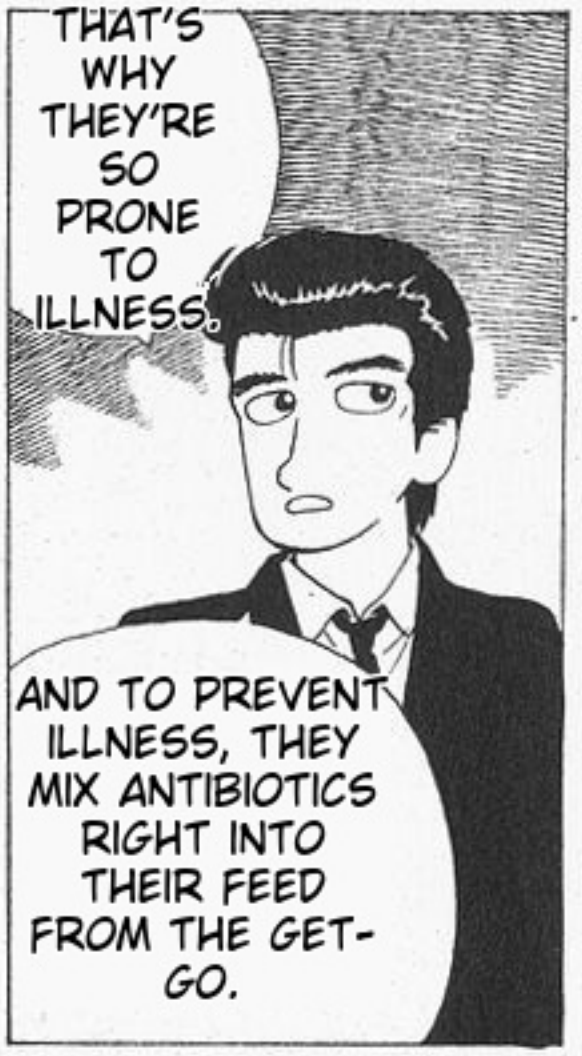
11

PLEASE COME WITH ME.

LET ME EXPLAIN HOW THIS HAPPENED.

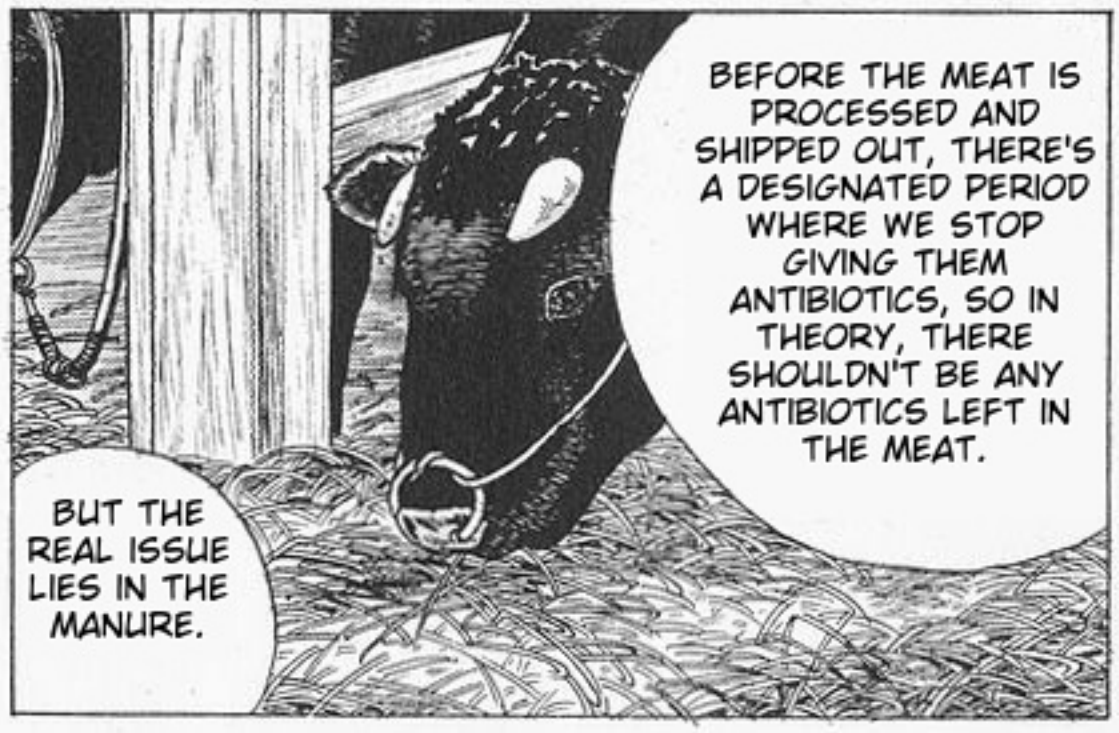
THIS IS ABSURD...!!




THAT'S WHY THEY'RE SO PRONE TO ILLNESS.
AND TO PREVENT ILLNESS, THEY MIX ANTIBIOTICS RIGHT INTO THEIR FEED FROM THE GET-GO.

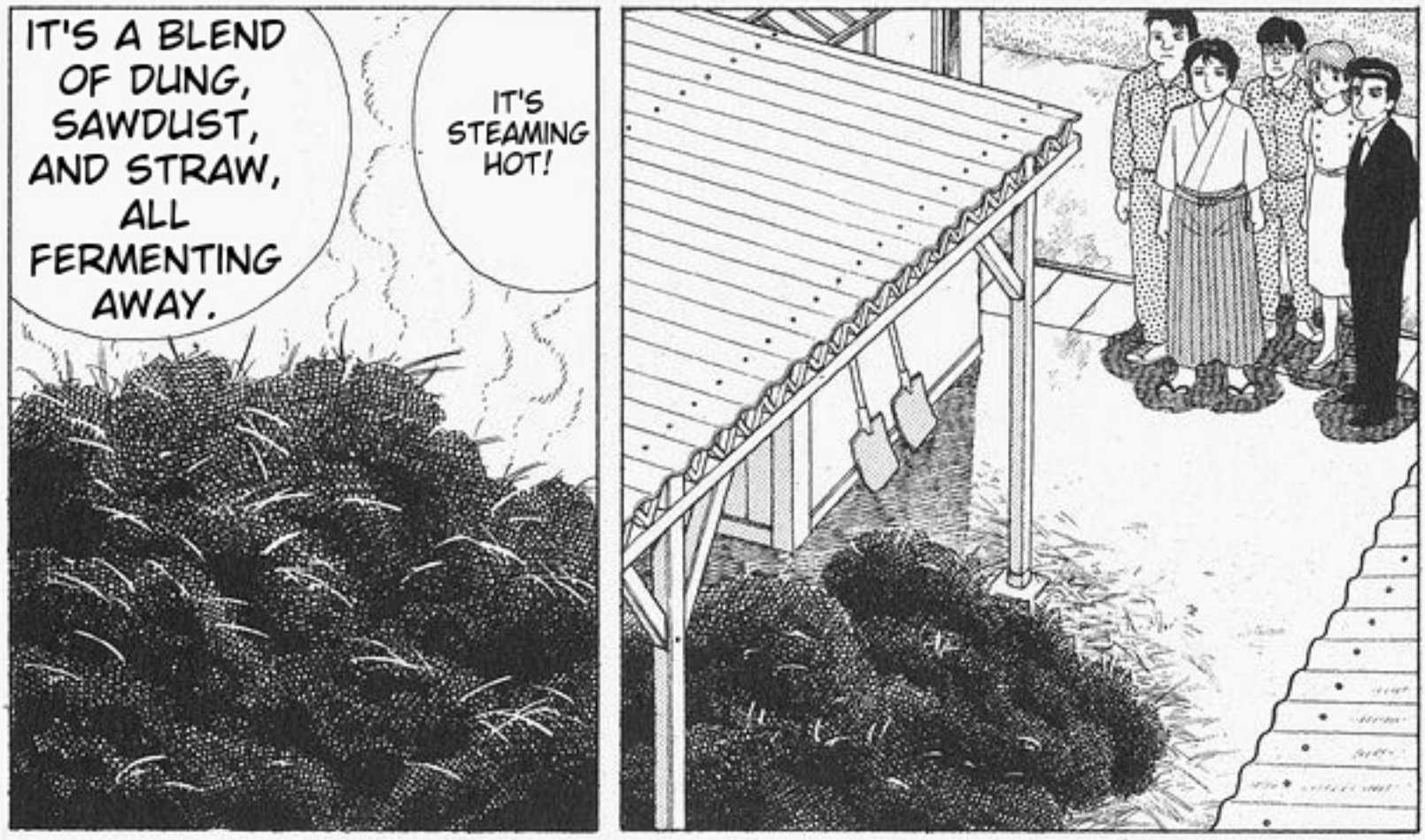
THEY'RE CRAMMED INTO TIGHT SPACES FOR REARING, AREN'T THEY...
WHAT AN ASTONISHING NUMBER OF CATTLE!!

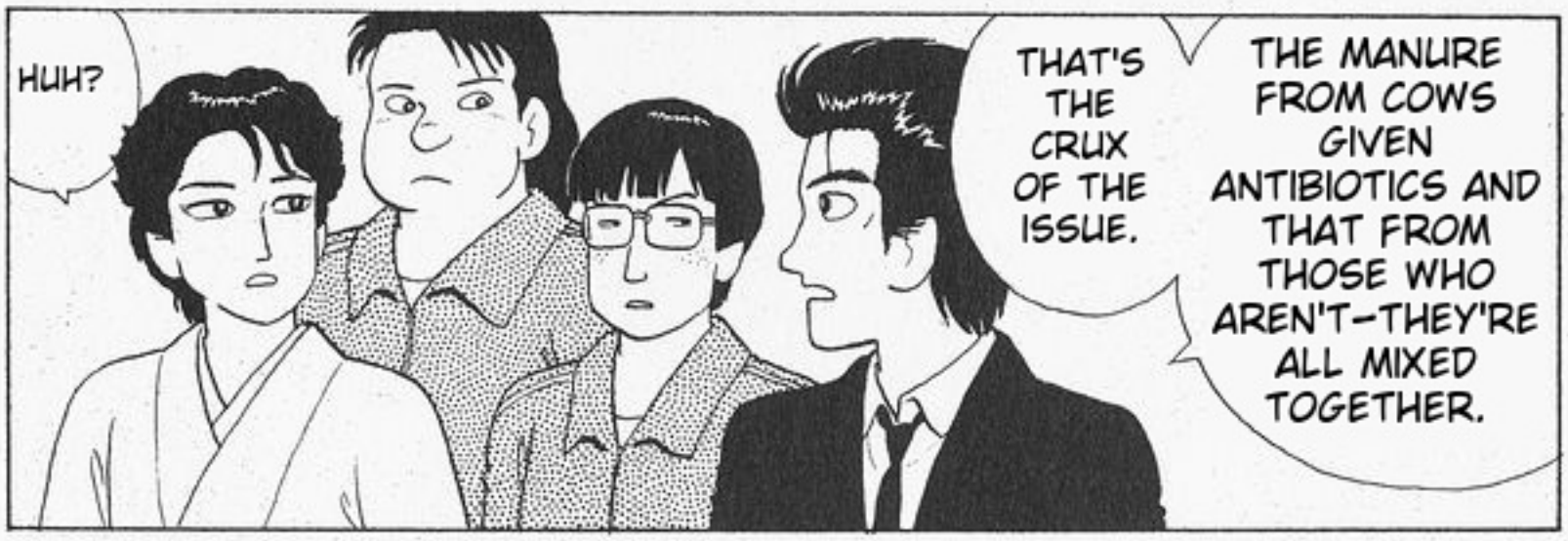
12


BUT THE REAL ISSUE LIES IN THE MANURE.
BEFORE THE MEAT IS PROCESSED AND SHIPPED OUT, THERE'S A DESIGNATED PERIOD WHERE WE STOP GIVING THEM ANTIBIOTICS, SO IN THEORY, THERE SHOULDN'T BE ANY ANTIBIOTICS LEFT IN THE MEAT.

WHAT?! ANTIBIOTICS ARE IN THEIR FEED!?!

DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 12





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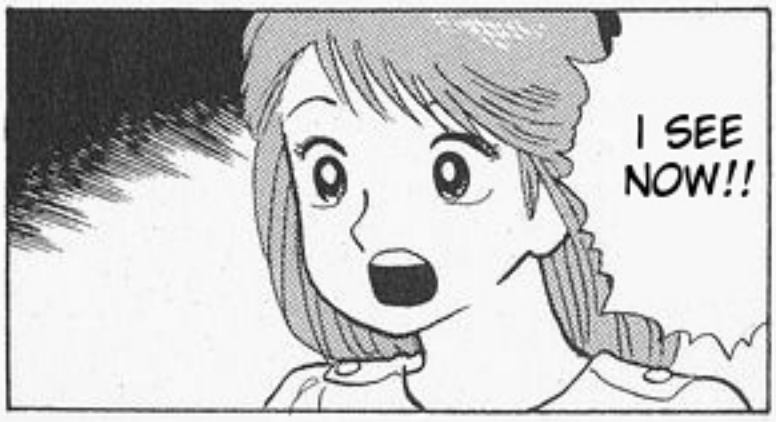
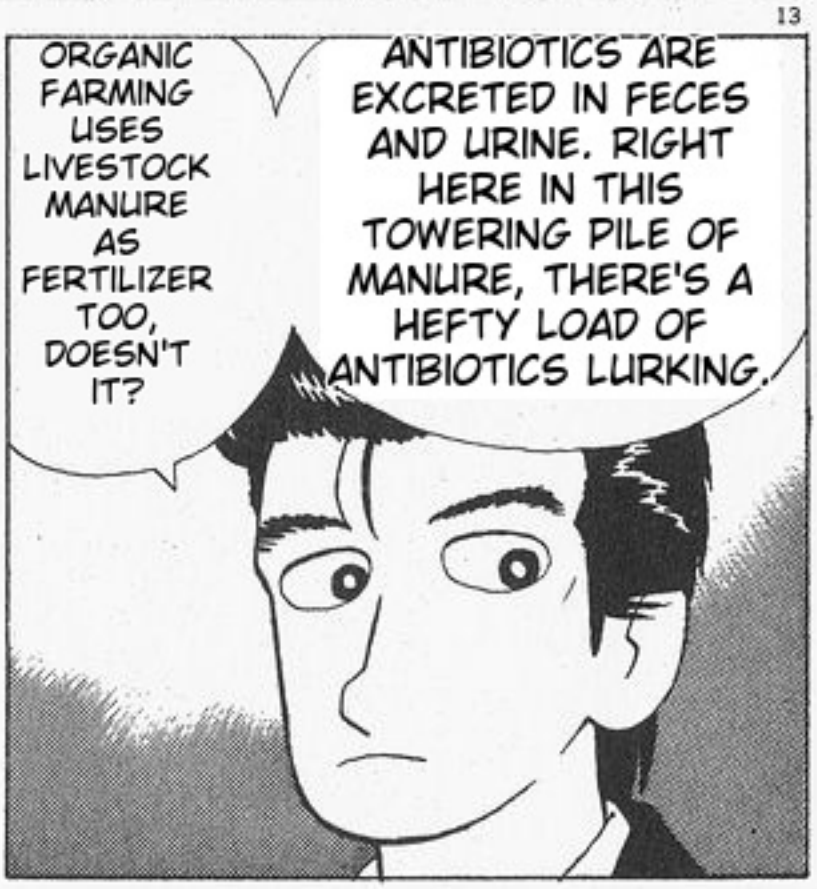




OF COURSE, THE CONCENTRATIONS ARE OFTEN SO LOW THAT THEY DON'T POSE A PROBLEM...

BUT IF FERTILIZER CONTAINING ANTIBIOTICS IS USED, THERE'S A REAL CHANCE THOSE ANTIBIOTICS END UP IN OUR CROPS.

UGH, UGH...

WOULD YOU REALLY WANT THE MANURE FROM SUCH COWS, CHICKENS, AND PIGS TO BE USED AS FERTILIZER?

CHICKENS AND PIGS ARE NO DIFFERENT; THEY'RE PUMPED FULL OF MEDICATIONS FOR EFFICIENT FARMING.

I DREAD THE THOUGHT OF EVEN THE SLIGHTEST TRACE OF ANTIBIOTICS SNEAKING IN.

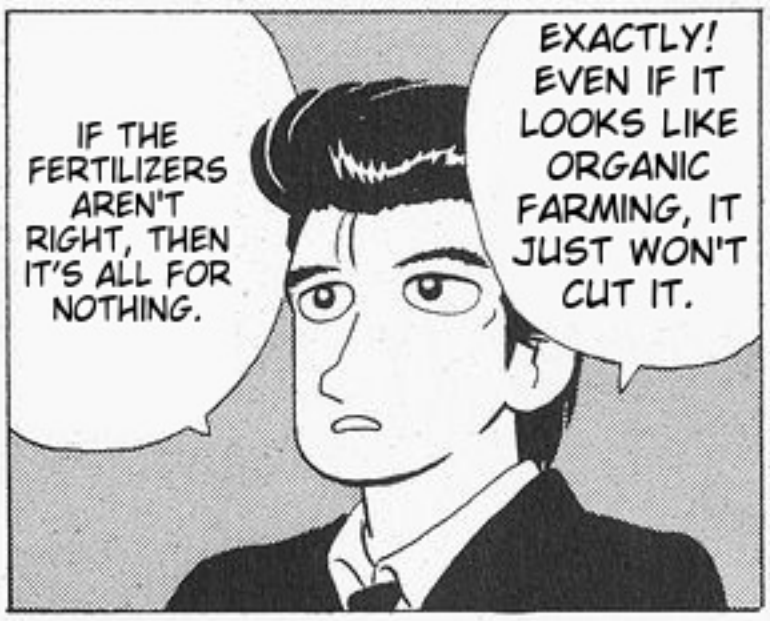
14

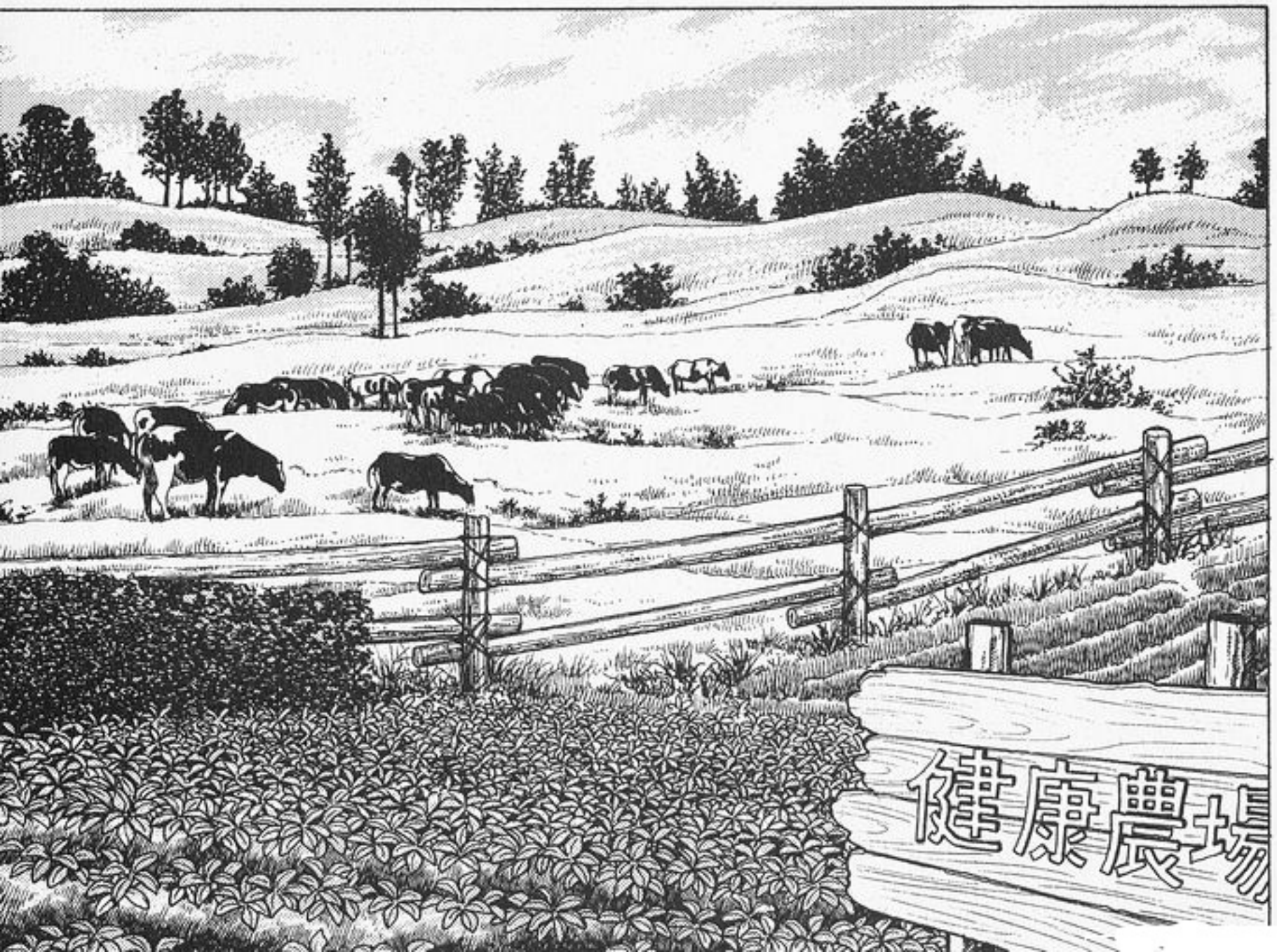
COMPOST MADE FROM PESTICIDE-LADEN GRASS AND LEAVES CARRIES THOSE VERY PESTICIDES WITHIN.

IN ORGANIC FARMING, WE USE LIVESTOCK MANURE AND COMPOST AS FERTILIZER, BUT THE PLANTS USED FOR COMPOST POSE A RISK TOO.

NOT ALL DRUGS BREAK DOWN INTO HARMLESS SUBSTANCES DURING THE PROCESS OF TURNING WASTE INTO FERTILIZER, YOU KNOW...

DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 12





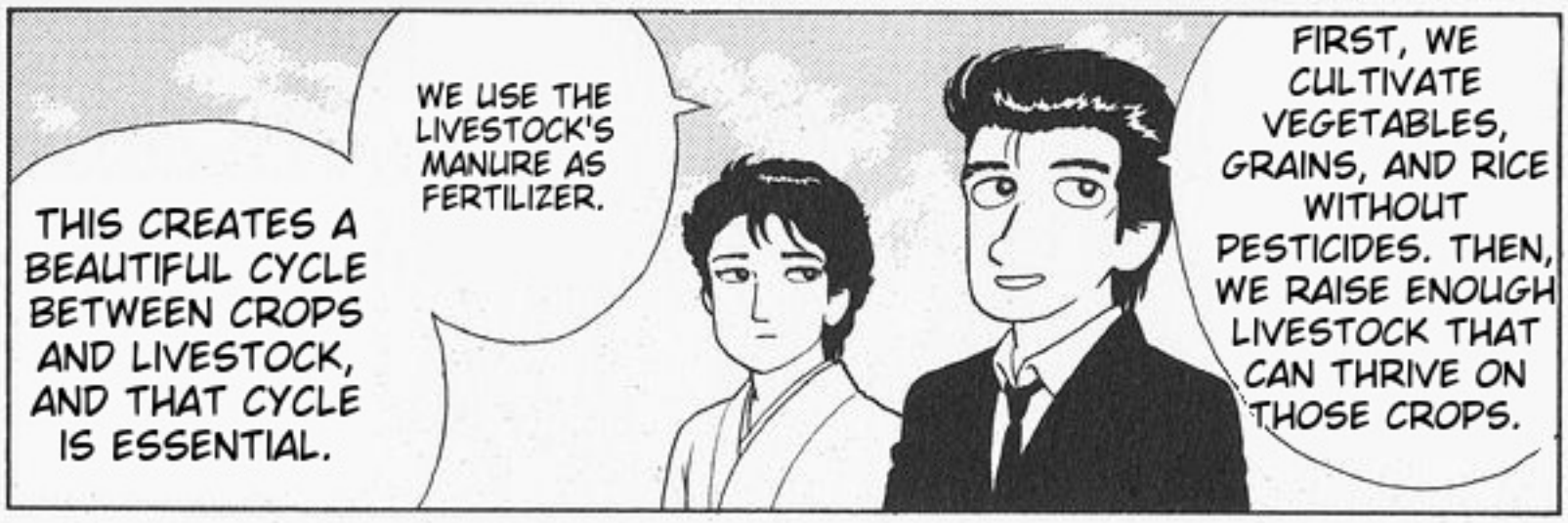
JUST LOOK AT THIS FARM... WOW....

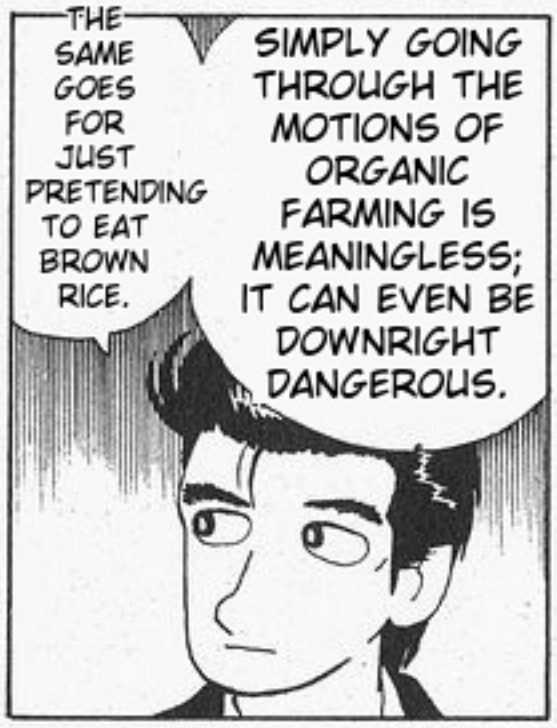
16

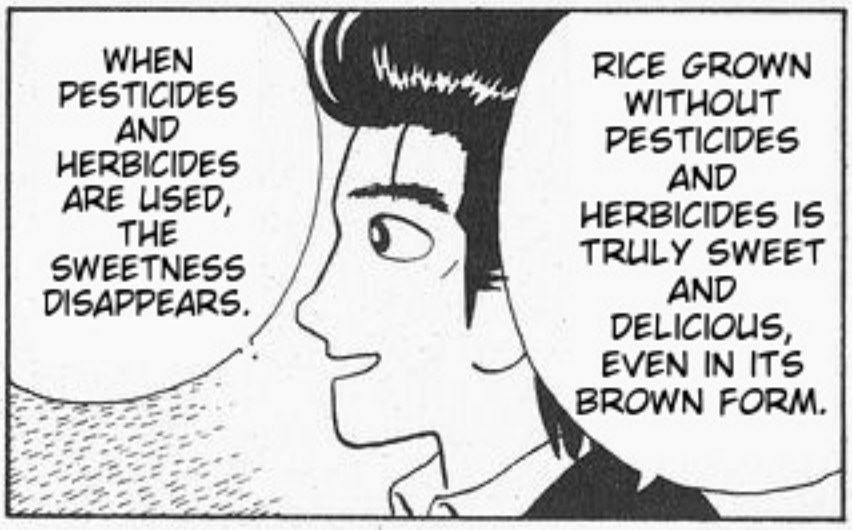
THEY'RE ENCLOSED BY FENCES AND WIRE, BUT EVERYONE IS LIVING FREELY ON THE GROUND, BASKING IN THE SUN...

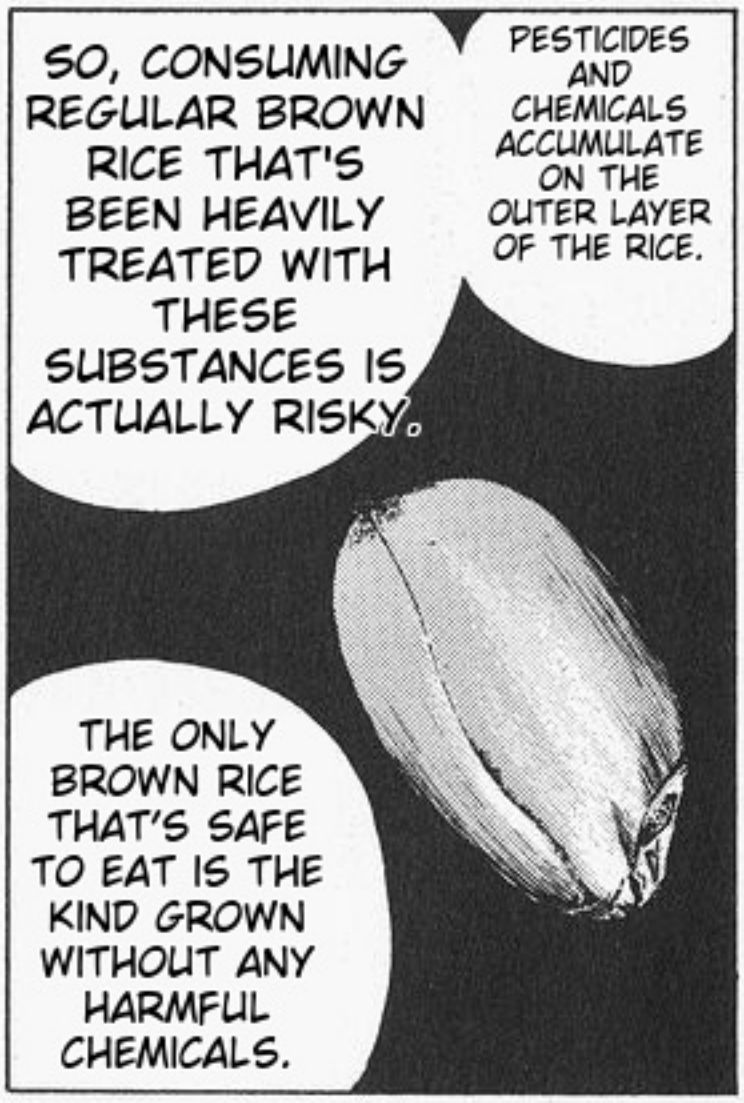
WHEAT FIELDS AND VEGETABLE PATCHES... THERE ARE COWS, PIGS, AND CHICKENS GALORE!

DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 12



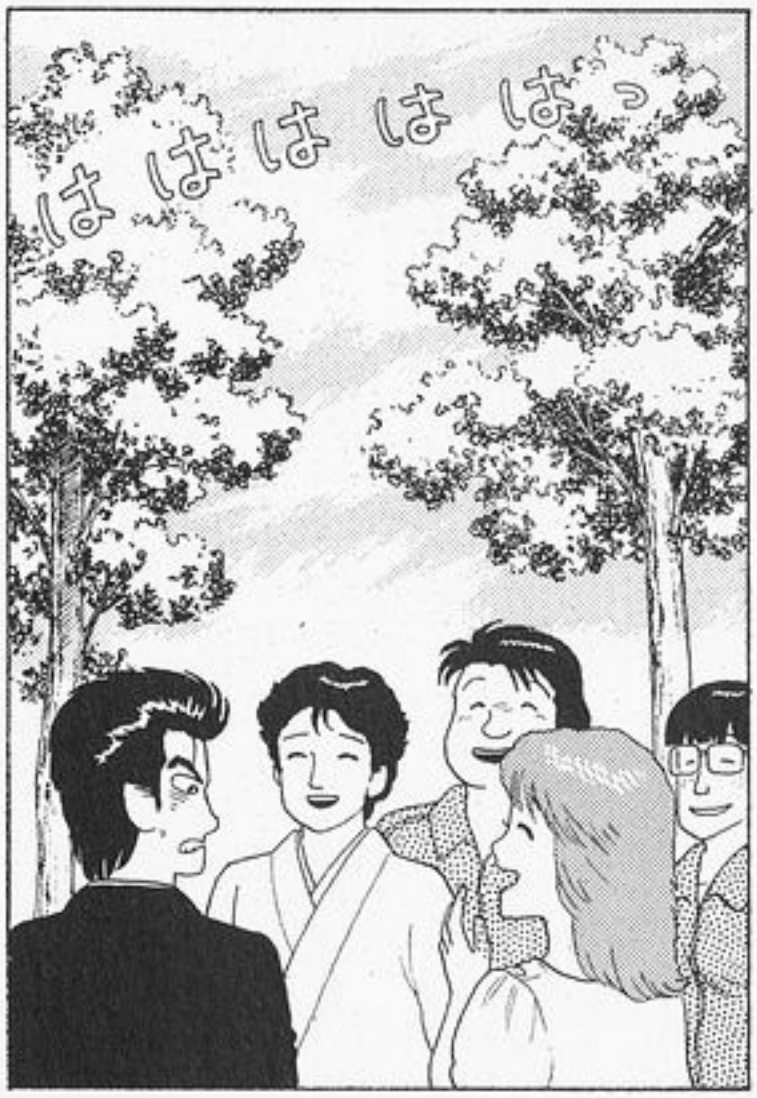






THAT'S WHEN I REALIZED THAT THE BROWN RICE WAS SO TERRIBLE THAT THE CLUB MEMBERS CAME ALL THE WAY TO OUR INN JUST TO GET A BOWL OF PLAIN WHITE RICE!

IF ANYONE DESERVES DIVINE RETRIBUTION, IT'S DEFINITELY ME.
I'M REALLY SORRY, MR. YAMAOKA.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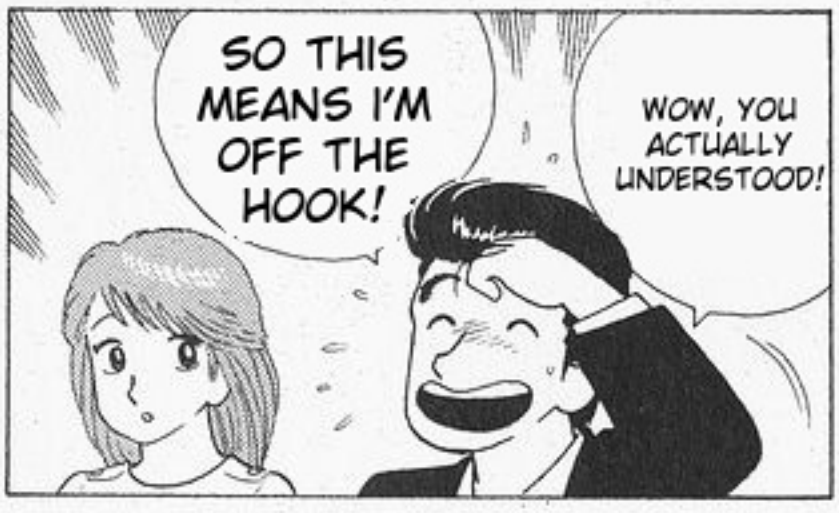
SO THIS MEANS I'M OFF THE HOOK!
WOW, YOU ACTUALLY UNDERSTOOD!

MAYBE I SHOULD JUST SLACK OFF AT WORK AND SEE IF I CAN SUMMON SOME DIVINE RETRIBUTION?
YOU WERE WORKING SO HARD, DRIVEN BY THE SHEER DESIRE TO BE SAVED!

THE WORLD JUDO CHAMPIONSHIP!

GIVE IT YOUR ALL!!

THAT GIRL, I SWEAR!

LOOK, THERE SHE IS! THE ONE WHO CAME TO OUR INN FOR A BOWL OF WHITE RICE.

19

THAT'S AMAZING!!

HOORAY, SHE WON THIS ROUND!!

IT'S ALL THANKS TO THE BROWN RICE DIET!!!

WELL YOU KNOW, BROWN RICE WON'T DO ANYTHING FOR YOUR HAIR.

AHH...

YAMAOKA, TELL ME WHERE I CAN SCORE SOME TOP-NOTCH BROWN RICE!

ALRIGHT, I'M JUMPING ON THE BROWN RICE BANDWAGON TOO!

第5話

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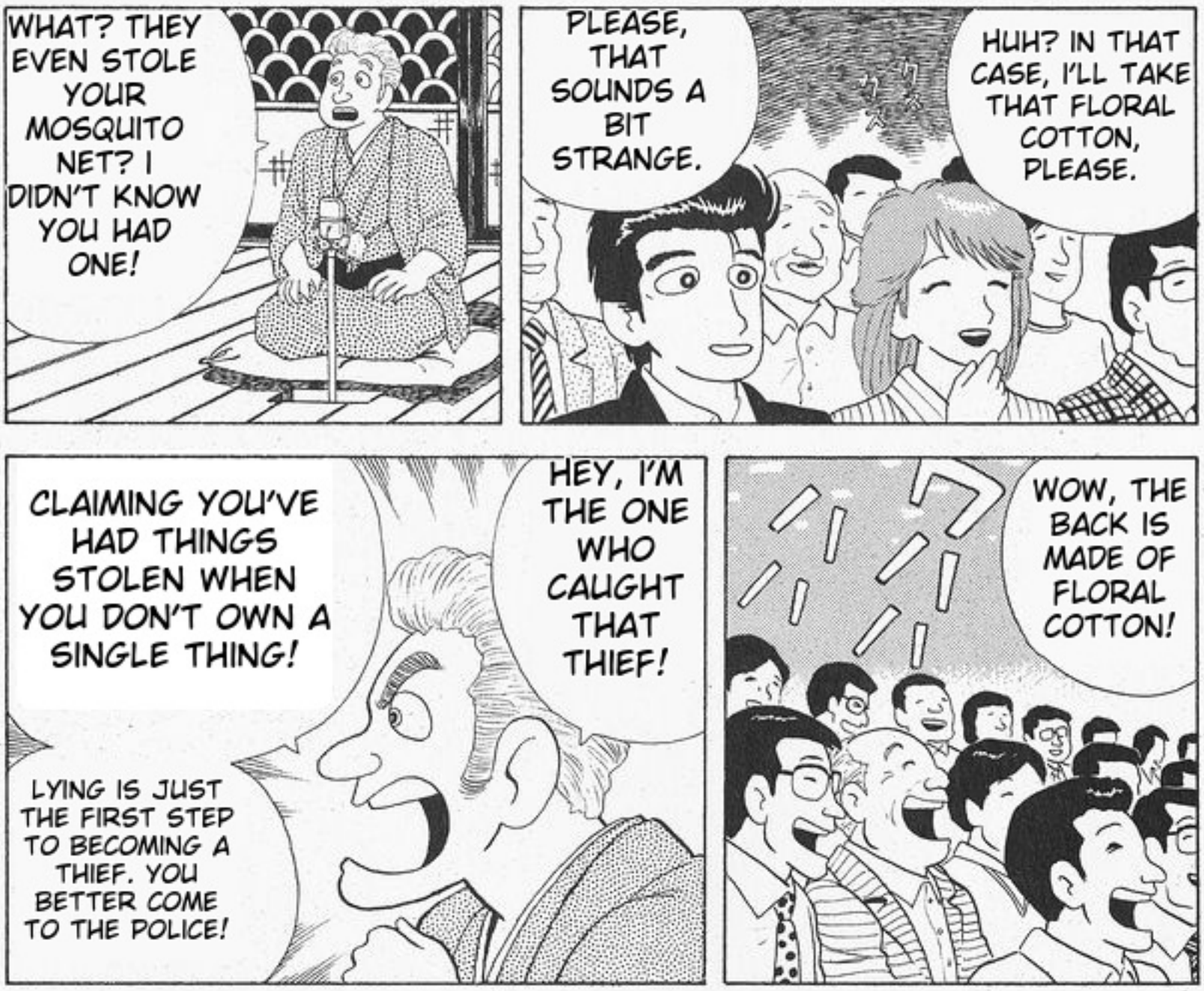
THAT ILLUSTRIOUS MR. KAIRAKUTEI BLACK IS SET TO PERFORM AT A YOKOHAMA IN ASAKUSA, SO MR. YAMAOKA AND I DECIDED TO HEAD OUT TOGETHER...

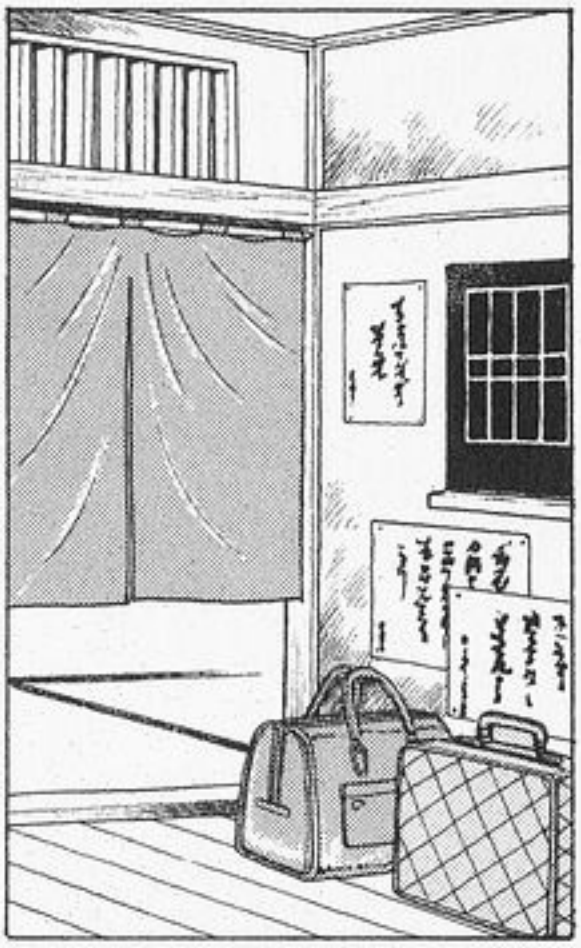
2

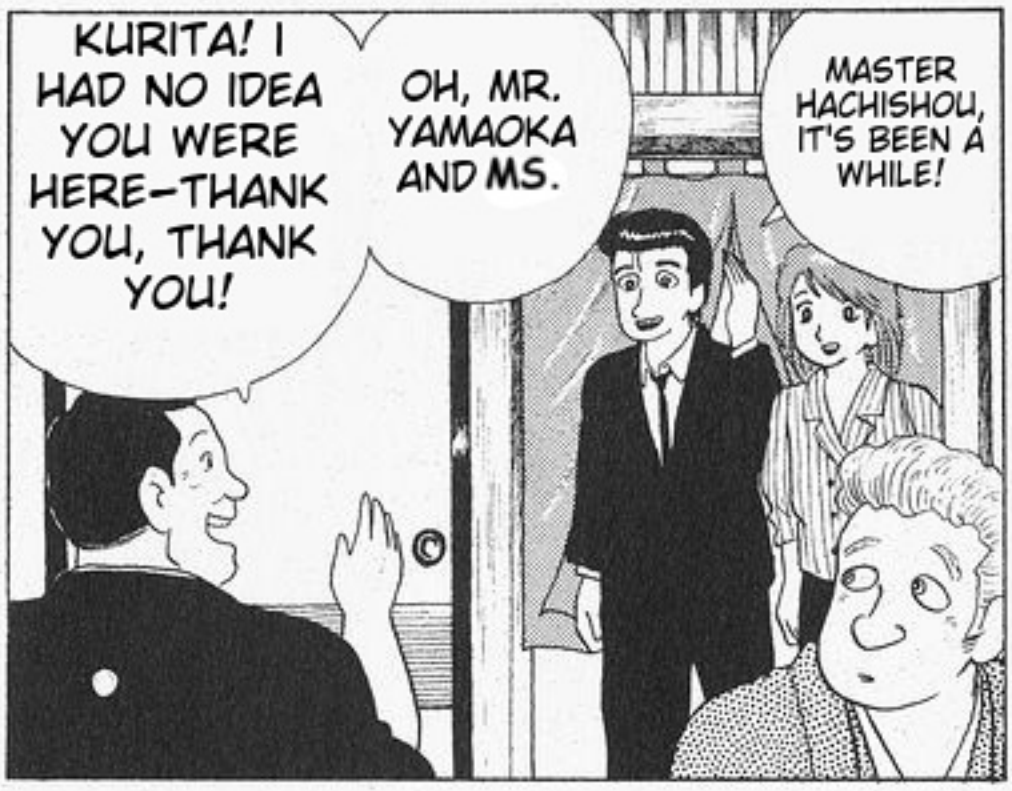
DELICIOUS!


WHAT? THEY EVEN STOLE YOUR MOSQUITO NET? I DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAD ONE!
PLEASE, THAT SOUNDS A BIT STRANGE.
HUH? IN THAT CASE, I'LL TAKE THAT FLORAL COTTON, PLEASE.
CLAIMING YOU'VE HAD THINGS STOLEN WHEN YOU DON'T OWN A SINGLE THING!
HEY, I'M THE ONE WHO CAUGHT THAT THIEF!
LYING IS JUST THE FIRST STEP TO BECOMING A THIEF. YOU BETTER COME TO THE POLICE!
WOW, THE BACK IS MADE OF FLORAL COTTON!

3

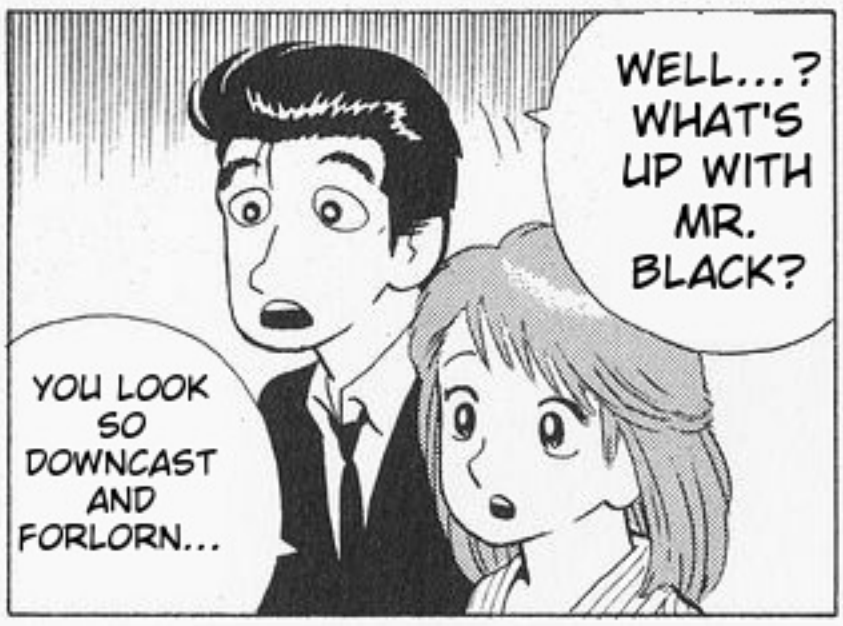
THANK YOU ALL VERY MUCH.
IT WAS QUITE ENTERTAINING; BLACK-SAN HAS REALLY STEPPED UP THEIR GAME!
MAYBE I'LL TAKE A PEEK BACKSTAGE.



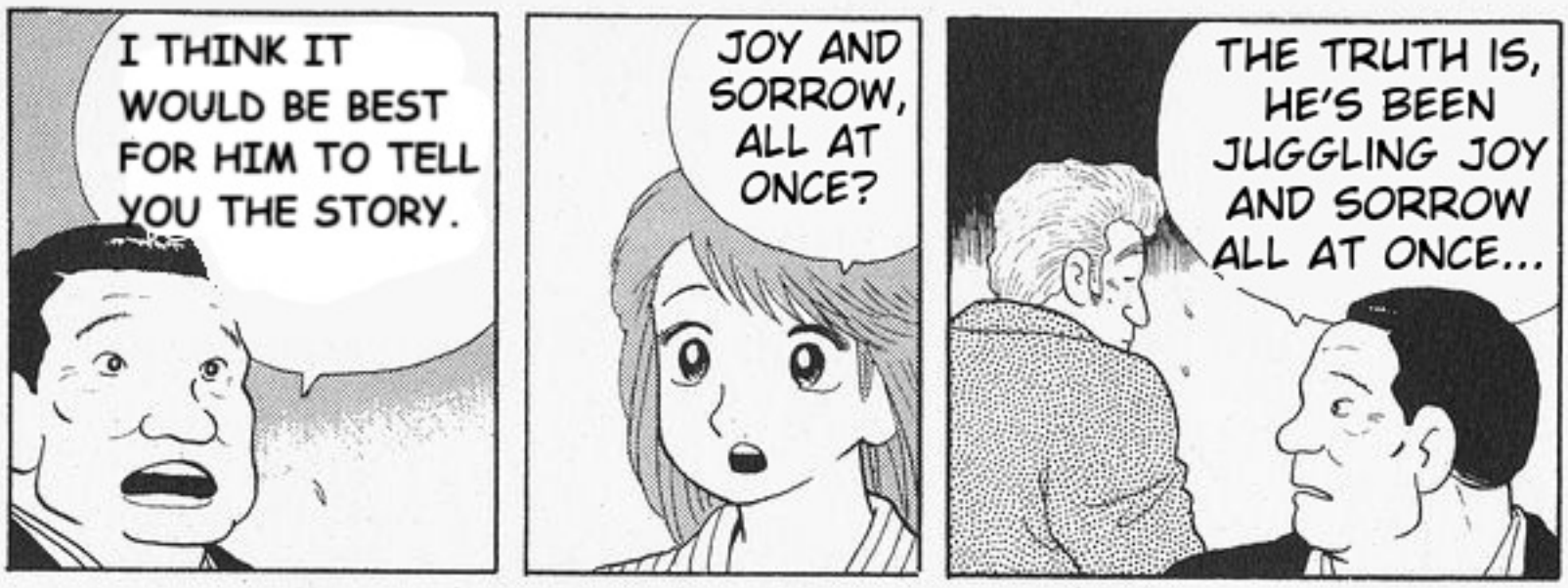

KURITA! I HAD NO IDEA YOU WERE HERE—THANK YOU, THANK YOU!
OH, MR. YAMAOKA AND MS.
MASTER HACHISHOU, IT'S BEEN A WHILE!

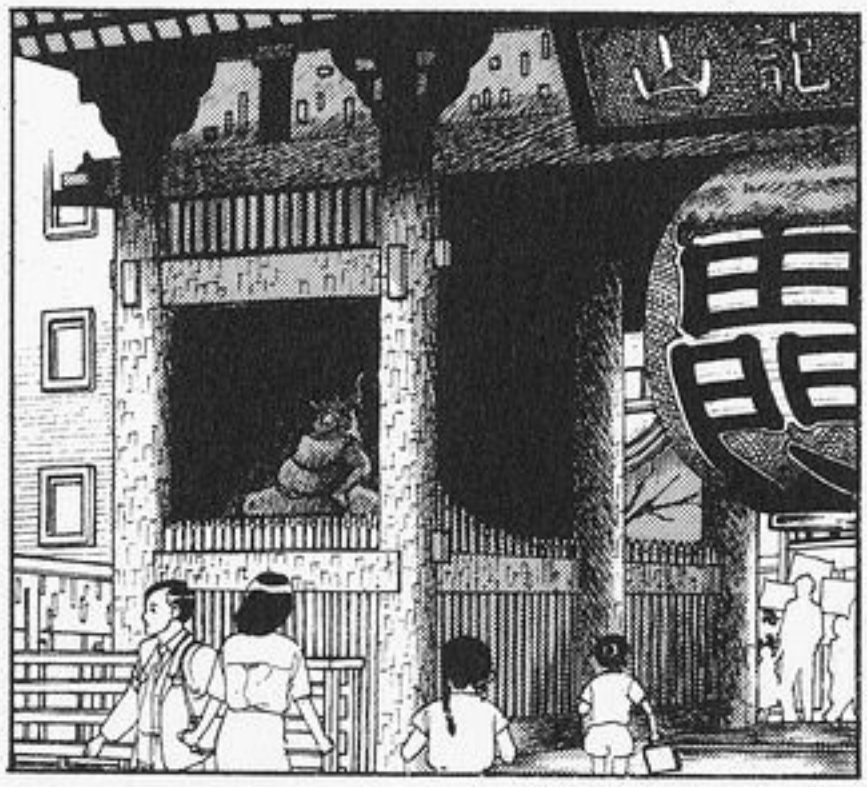
4

NOT AT ALL!
BUT DID MASTER HACHISHOU SCOLD YOU FOR SOMETHING?
THAT STORY WAS ABSOLUTELY SPLENDID,


WELL...? WHAT'S UP WITH MR. BLACK?
YOU LOOK SO DOWNCAST AND FORLORN...

DELICIOUS!


I THINK IT WOULD BE BEST FOR HIM TO TELL YOU THE STORY.
JOY AND SORROW, ALL AT ONCE?
THE TRUTH IS, HE'S BEEN JUGGLING JOY AND SORROW ALL AT ONCE...



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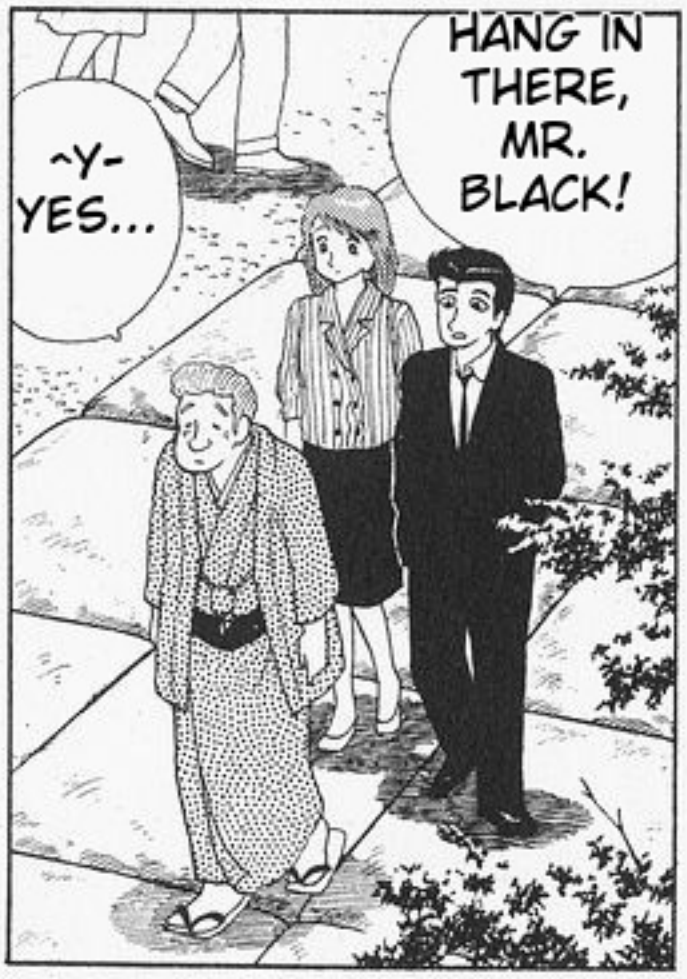
HEY, I HEARD FROM MASTER HACHISHOU THAT SOMETHING GOOD HAS HAPPENED!


~Y-YES...
HANG IN THERE, MR. BLACK!

WHEN YOU MENTION SOMETHING GOOD, IT REALLY GETS ME FLUSTERED, YOU KNOW!
HEHEHE... WELL, THIS IS QUITE THE PICKLE...

TO BE HONEST, SPRING HAS FINALLY COME KNOCKING AT MY DOOR...

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HEHEHEHE,

I'M THINKING OF SOARING ALL THE WAY TO THE MOON, AND WHILE I'M AT IT, MAYBE I'LL BECOME A SATELLITE TOO!

GOOD NEWS OR NOT, I'M JUST BURSTING WITH JOY!

WHAT ON EARTH IS THIS WONDERFUL NEWS?

WOW, THAT'S FANTASTIC!

THE WOMAN I'M SMITTEN WITH SEEMS TO HAVE A SOFT SPOT FOR ME AS WELL...

WELL, WOULD YOU LOOK AT THAT!

6

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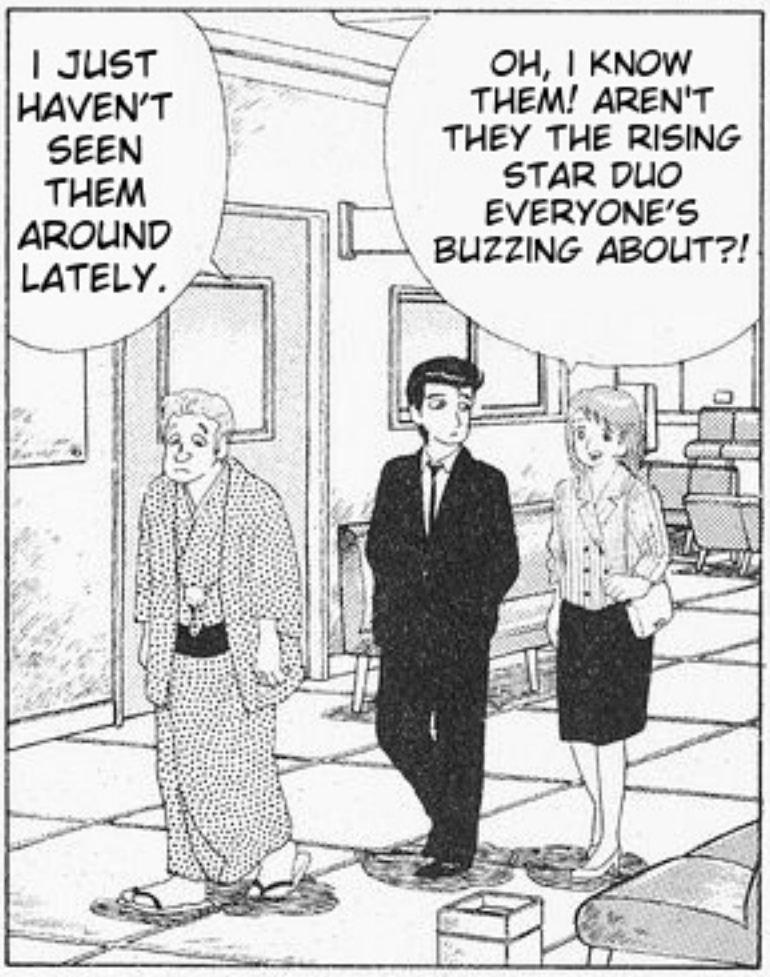
OH DEAR, HERE WE GO AGAIN...

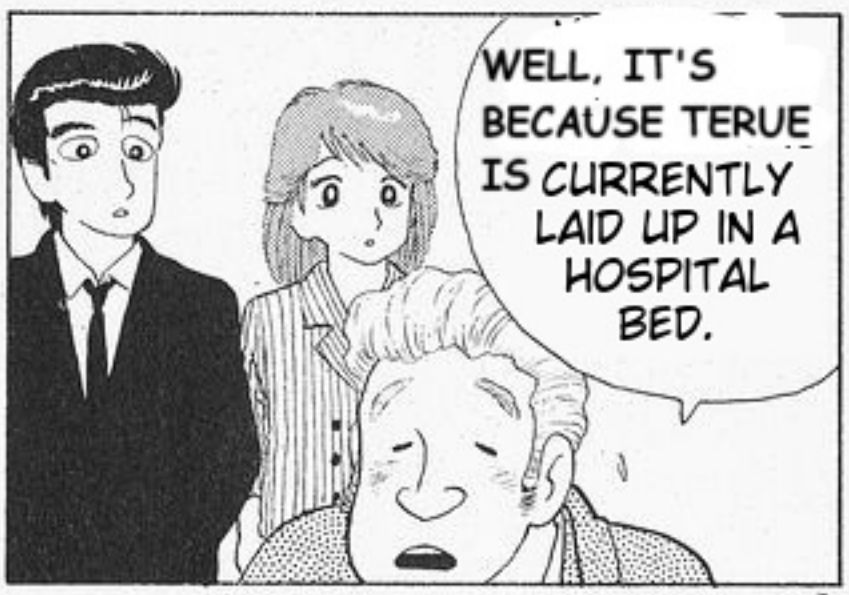
BUT WHY WERE YOU SO DOWN IN THE DUMPS JUST A MOMENT AGO?

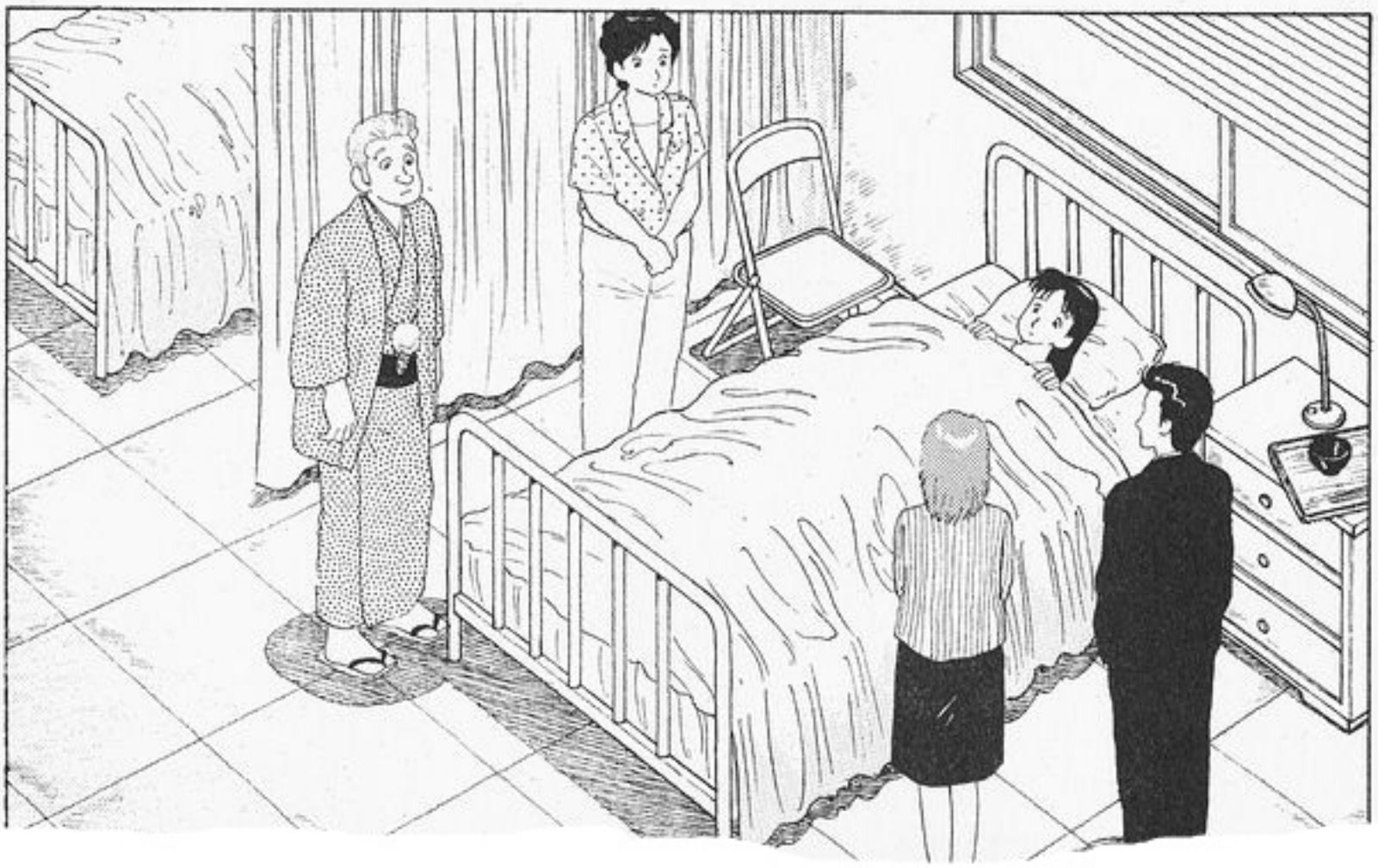
DELICIOUS!


I JUST HAVEN'T SEEN THEM AROUND LATELY.
OH, I KNOW THEM! AREN'T THEY THE RISING STAR DUO EVERYONE'S BUZZING ABOUT?!

THAT'S THE SITUATION WITH TERUE...
...THE ONE I'VE FALLEN FOR IS THE TERUTERU COMBO OF TERUKO AND TERUE, THOSE AMAZING FEMALE COMEDIANS,

OH, HOW TRAGIC...
I FINALLY FIND A GIRLFRIEND AND SHE ENDS UP IN THE HOSPITAL!


WELL, IT'S BECAUSE TERUE IS CURRENTLY LAID UP IN A HOSPITAL BED.



SHE DAMAGED HER LIVER...

I THINK SHE'S BEEN WORKING WAY TOO HARD TO MAKE A NAME FOR HERSELF SINCE OUR DEBUT.

THE ONLY THING I CAN SWALLOW IS MISO SOUP, AND THAT'S ABOUT IT...

BUT MY APPETITE IS COMPLETELY NON-EXISTENT! WITH LIVER ISSUES, I REALLY NEED TO NOURISH MYSELF...

BUT HER RECOVERY ISN'T GOING WELL.

BUT THANKFULLY, IT MEANS YOU'VE MANAGED TO DODGE CHRONIC HEPATITIS FOR NOW,

TERUE, JUST MISO SOUP WON'T CUT IT; YOU NEED THAT RICH, NUTRITIOUS POTAGE INSTEAD.

8

I REFUSE TO EAT FOREIGN SLOP LIKE POTAGE!

NO WAY! I'M A TRUE EDO GIRL, WITH THE BLOOD OF A TATSUMI GEISHA RUNNING THROUGH MY VEINS!

BUT IF YOU GET SOME NUTRITION IN YOU, YOUR STRENGTH AND APETITE WILL RETURN, AND YOU'LL BE ABLE TO ENJOY RICE AND FISH AGAIN!

NO WAY! I ABSOLUTELY HATE POTAGE!!

DELICIOUS!

EVEN THOUGH I'M A FOREIGNER MYSELF, THAT LAST REMARK WAS JUST TOO HARSH!
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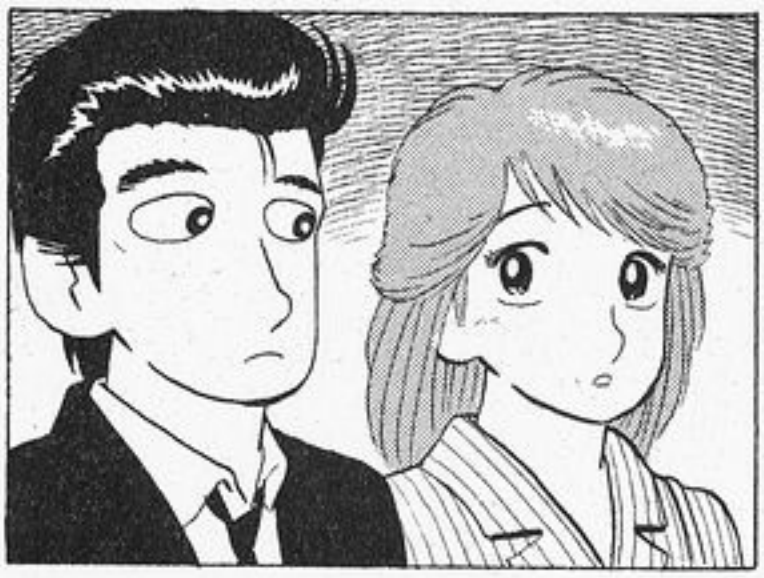
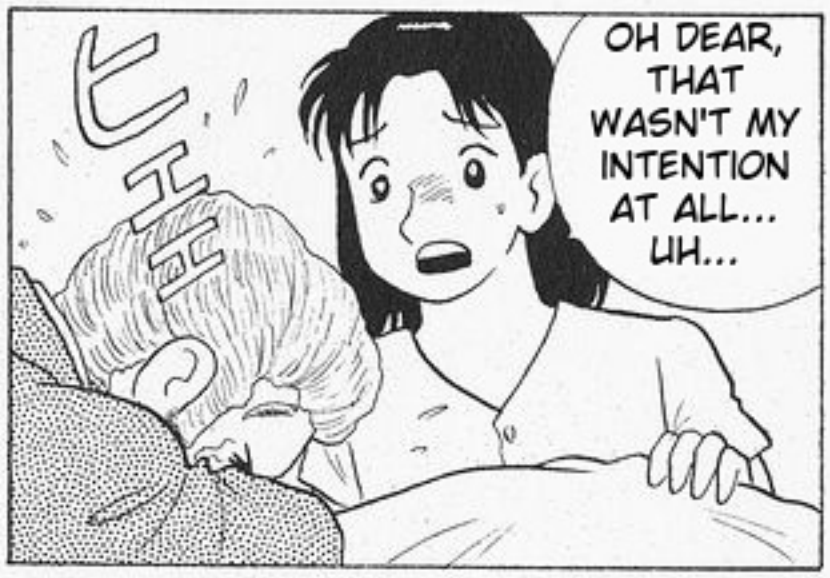
HOW TERRIBLE, HOW TERRIBLE!

UH...

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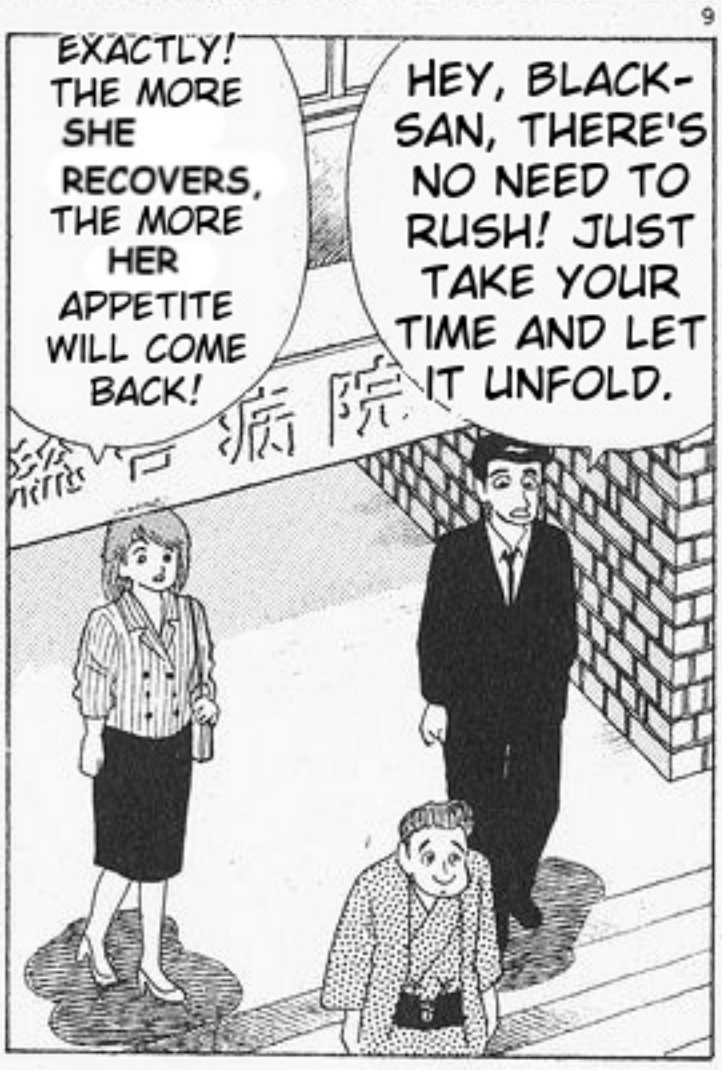
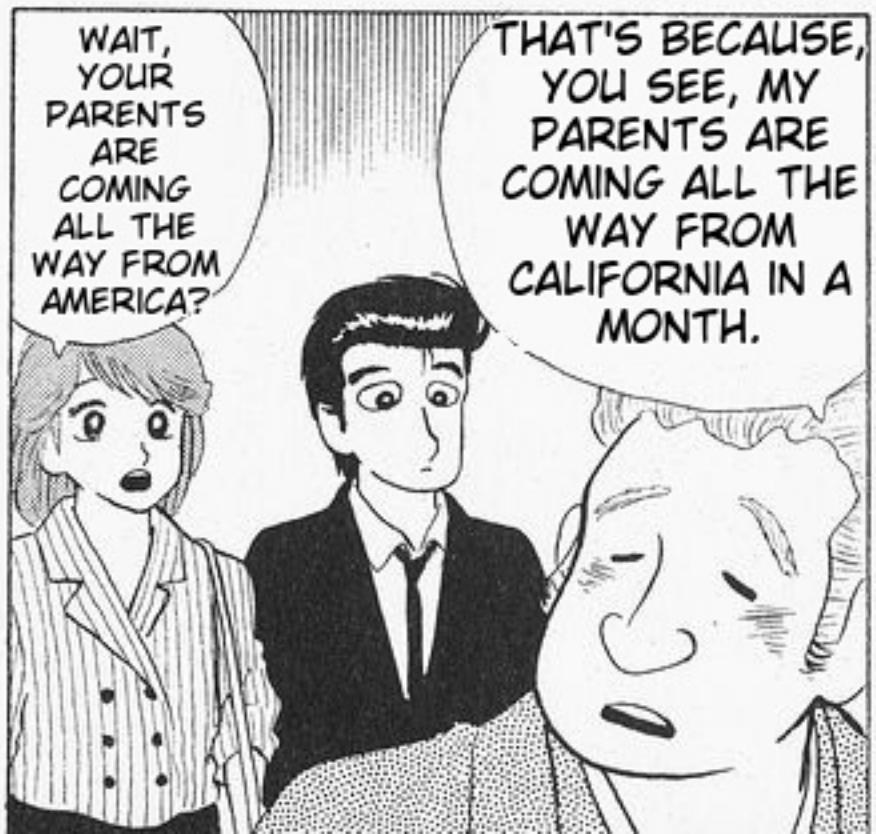
OH DEAR, THAT WASN'T MY INTENTION AT ALL... UH...

BUT YOU SEE, I REALLY NEED TERUE-SAN TO GET BETTER SOON OR I'M GOING TO BE IN A BIND...


EXACTLY! THE MORE SHE RECOVERS, THE MORE HER APPETITE WILL COME BACK!
HEY, BLACK-SAN, THERE'S NO NEED TO RUSH! JUST TAKE YOUR TIME AND LET IT UNFOLD.


WAIT, YOUR PARENTS ARE COMING ALL THE WAY FROM AMERICA?
THAT'S BECAUSE, YOU SEE, MY PARENTS ARE COMING ALL THE WAY FROM CALIFORNIA IN A MONTH.

IT WOULD BE QUITE THE EMBARRASSMENT TO INTRODUCE TERUE-SAN WHILE SHE'S STUCK IN THE HOSPITAL...

WELL, OF COURSE...

I WANT TERUE-SAN TO BE BACK ON HER FEET BEFORE HER PARENTS ARRIVE!

SURE, MISO SOUP IS NUTRITIOUS, BUT JUST MISO SOUP WON'T CUT IT...

ABOUT A MONTH TO GO. HMM...

WOW, BLACK-SAN, YOU MAKE YUBA YOURSELF?

ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT THAT YUBA THEY USE IN KYOTO CUISINE?

I THOUGHT I'D BRING HER SOME HOMEMADE YUBA TO COOK UP AND LET TERUE-SAN ENJOY, BUT THE YUBA DIDN'T TURN OUT RIGHT...

I'VE BEEN REALLY INTO YUBA LATELY,

10

THAT SOUNDS GREAT!

YUBA!?

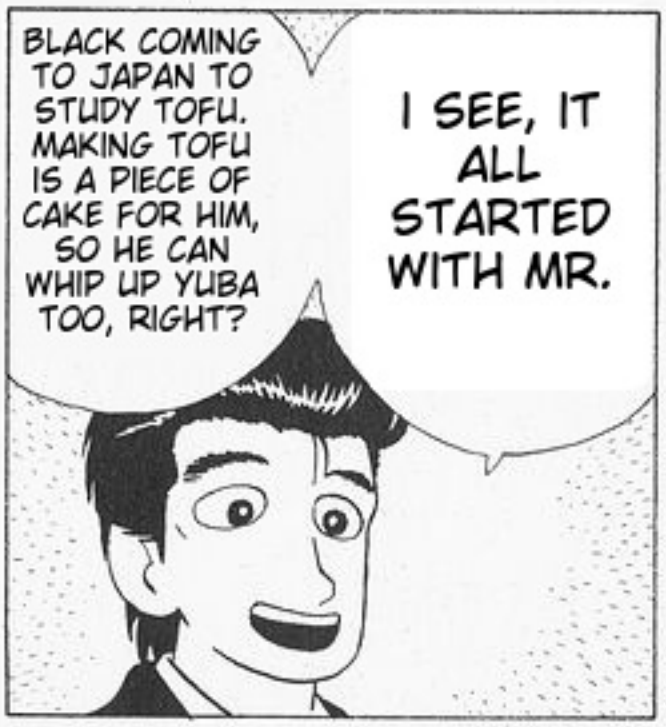
I'LL TREAT YOU TO SOME FRESH YUBA!

OH, THIS IS PERFECT! MY PLACE IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER, SO PLEASE STOP BY!

DELICIOUS!

快楽亭ブラック

HEY THERE, THANKS FOR WAITING!


BLACK COMING TO JAPAN TO STUDY TOFU. MAKING TOFU IS A PIECE OF CAKE FOR HIM, SO HE CAN WHIP UP YUBA TOO, RIGHT?
I SEE, IT ALL STARTED WITH MR.

TO PUT IT SIMPLY, THIS IS THE SOY MILK USED FOR MAKING TOFU!
THE POT IS FILLED WITH SOYBEANS THAT HAVE BEEN SOAKED IN WATER OVERNIGHT AND THEN GROUND TO PERFECTION.

FRESHLY LIFTED YUBA IS MEANT TO BE ENJOYED RIGHT AWAY, DIPPED STRAIGHT INTO YOUR FAVORITE SAUCE FOR AN IRRESISTIBLE EXPERIENCE...

THIS FILM CAN BE SCOOPED UP AND DRIED TO CREATE WHAT WE CALL YUBA, BUT THE THING IS,

BEHOLD, IT'S A DELIGHTFUL CONCOCTION MADE FROM THE PROTEIN OF SOYBEANS THAT HAS SET WITH HEAT!

LOOK, THE SURFACE OF THE SOY MILK HAS FORMED A DELICATE FILM.

NOW, GRAB YOUR CHOPSTICKS AND DIP INTO THAT LITTLE DISH OF SAUCE!

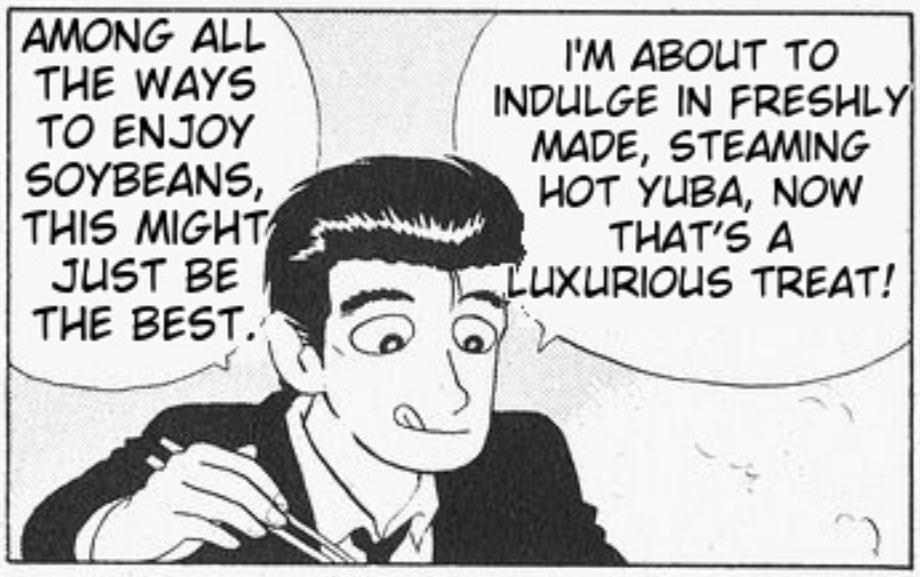
12

THE SURFACE IS SO SILKY SMOOTH, YET UNDERNEATH IT'S WONDERFULLY CREAMY, AND THE CONTRAST ON MY TONGUE IS SIMPLY DIVINE!

WHAT A CURIOUS TEXTURE IT HAS!

AND OH, THE NATURAL SWEETNESS! PLUS, THE TANTALIZING AROMA!

DELICIOUS!



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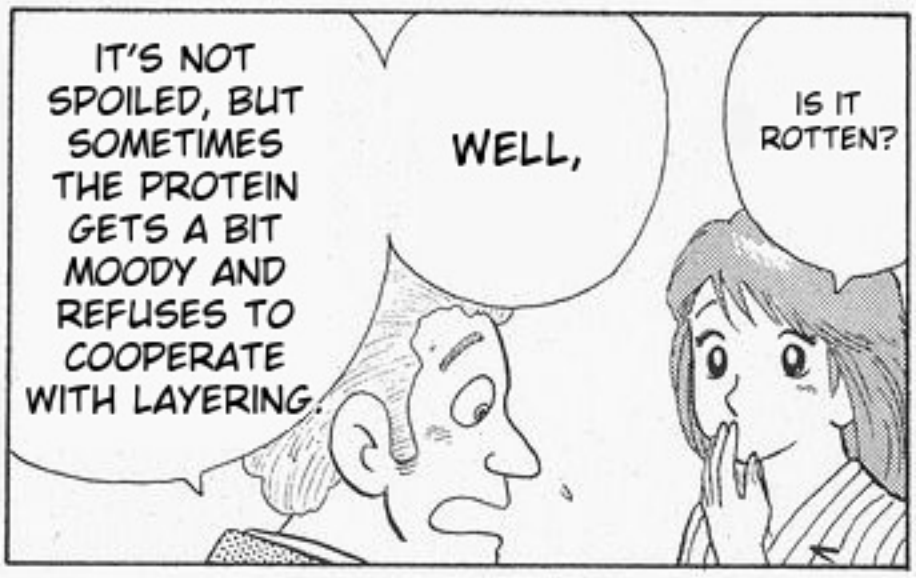
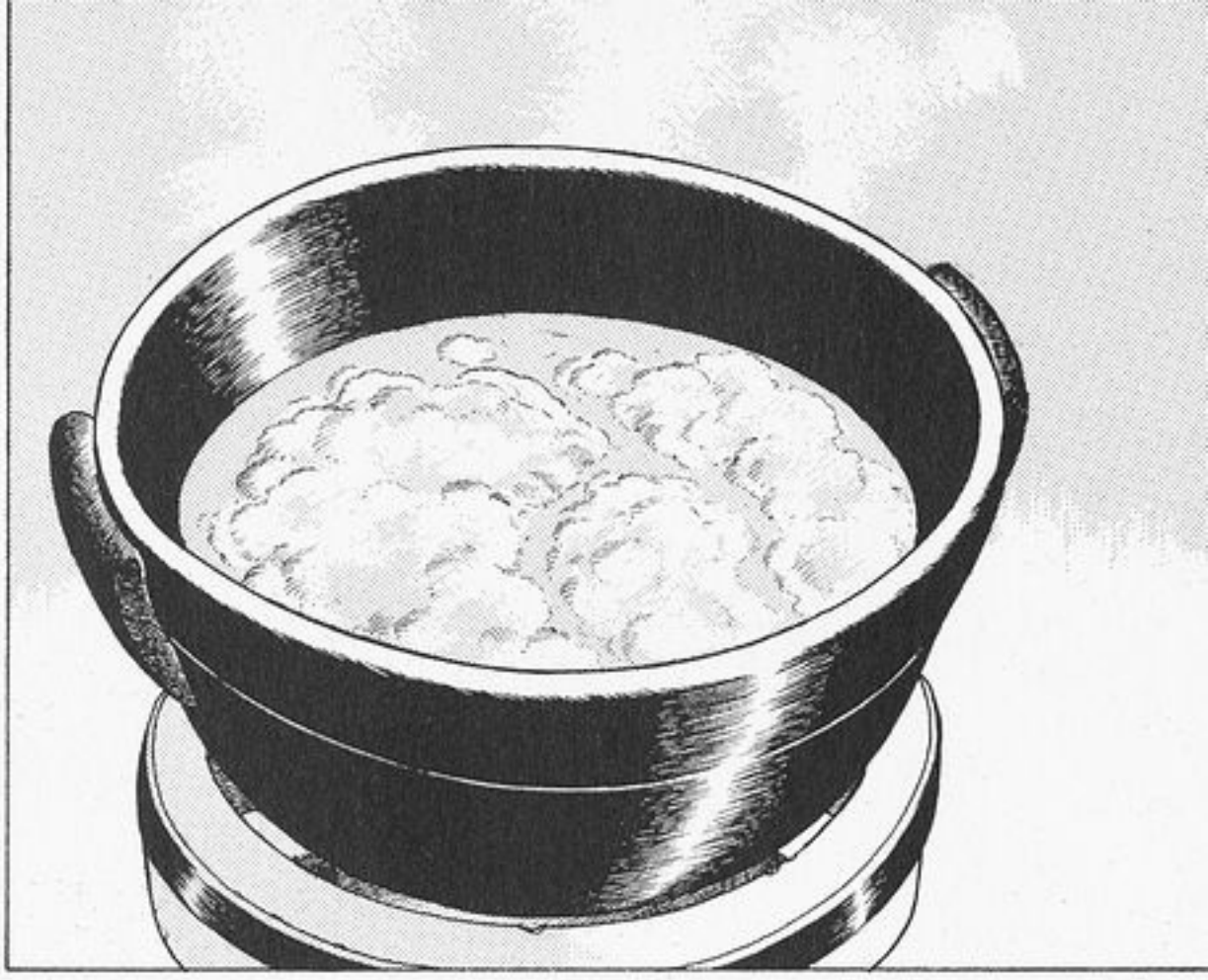


INSTEAD OF A FILM, SOMETHING THICK AND FLUFFY HAS EMERGED, FLOATING AROUND!

OH?

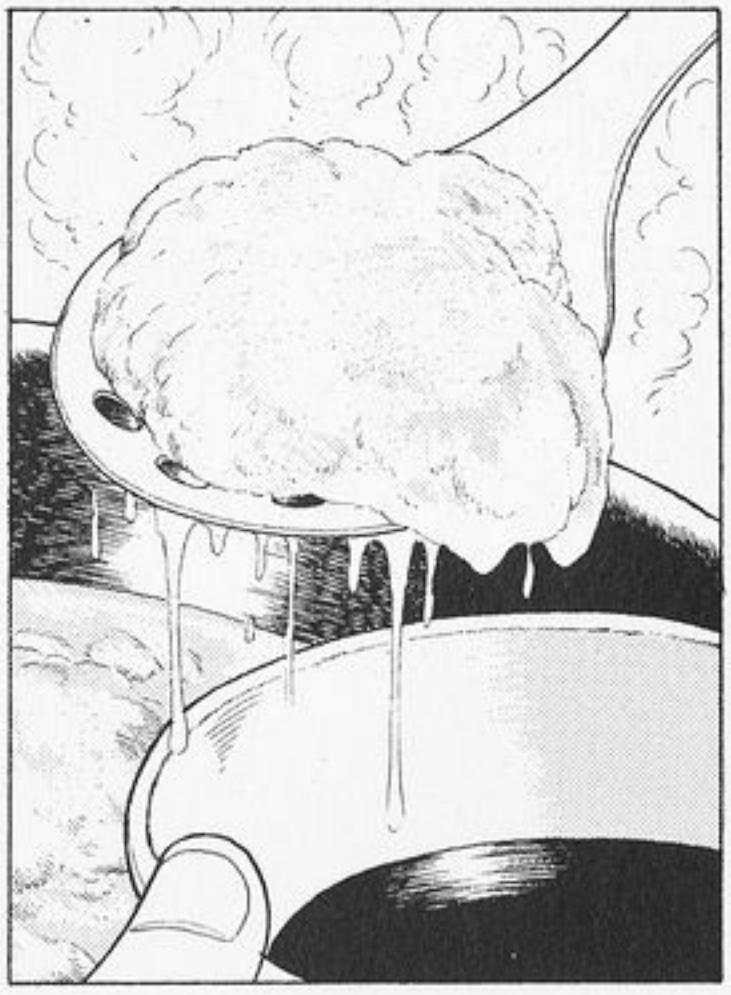


SURE THING!

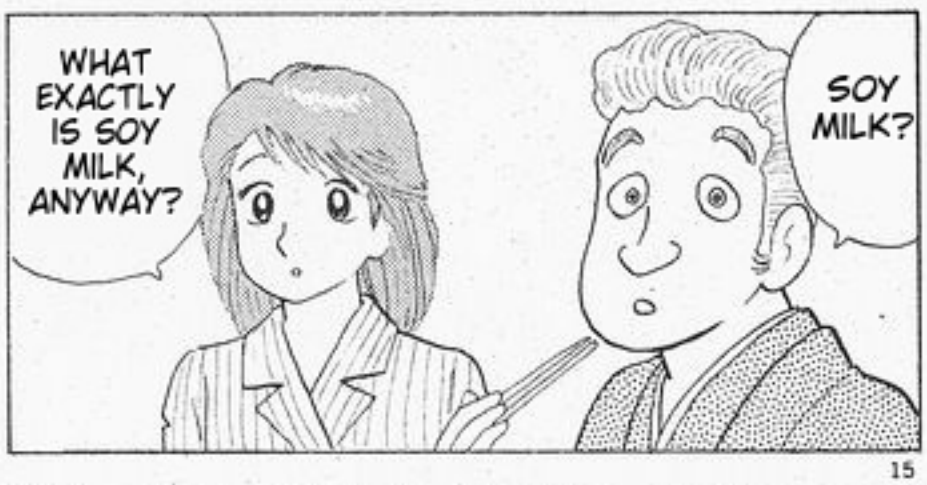
HEY, BLACK, PASS ME THE TOFU SCOOP.

THE PROTEIN THAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A DELICATE FILM HAS THICKENED AND CLUMPED UP- IT'S SURPRISINGLY TASTY IN ITS OWN RIGHT!

14



DELICIOUS!



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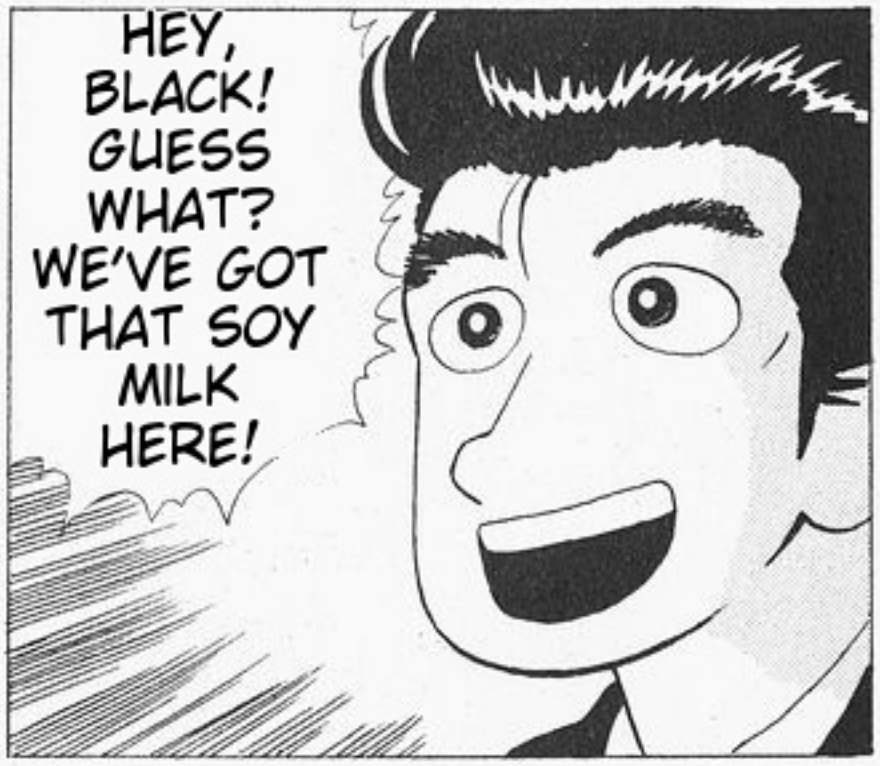
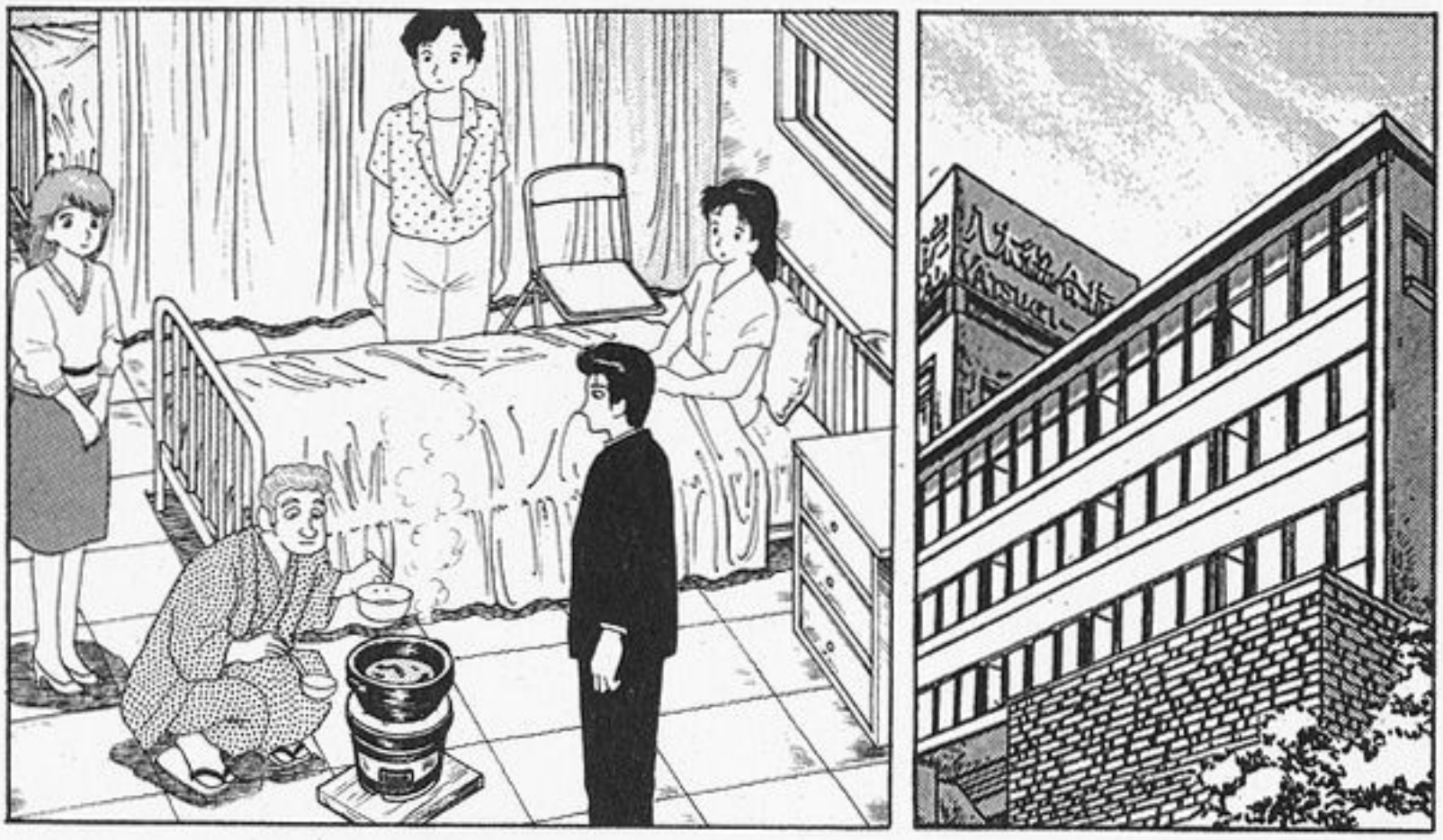




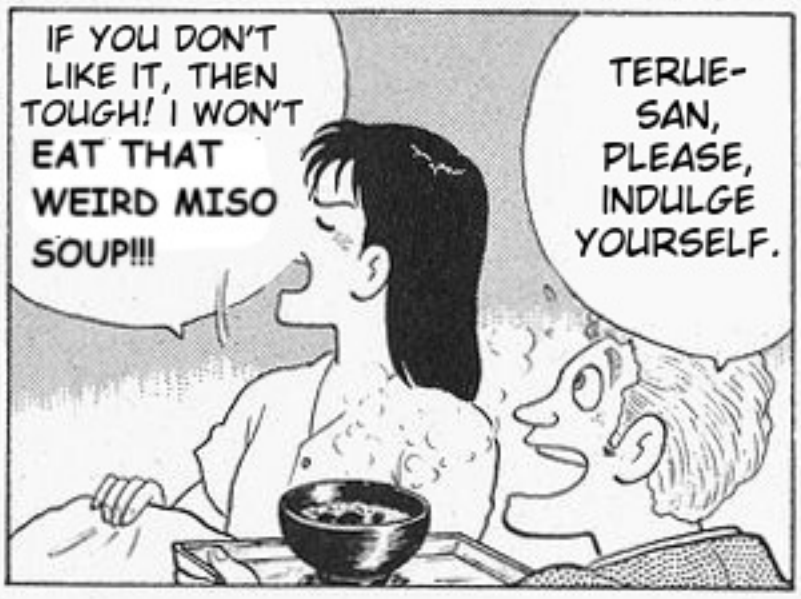
NO WAY! I WON'T DRINK IT UNLESS IT'S A PROPER MISO SOUP, YOU HEAR ME?!
JUST TRUST ME, WILL YOU?

WHAT ON EARTH IS THAT? DON'T GO THROWING WEIRD STUFF INTO MY WAKAME MISO SOUP!!

LOOK AT THOSE FLUFFY CLUMPS RISING TO THE SURFACE!
ALRIGHT, IT'S TIME TO DIG IN!

WAIT FOR IT TO SOAK UP ALL THAT LOVELY WARMTH...
GIVE IT A GENTLE STIR, AND JUST BEFORE IT BOILS, TAKE IT OFF THE HEAT AND LET IT SIT...

AH!


IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, THEN TOUGH! I WON'T EAT THAT WEIRD MISO SOUP!!!
TERUE-SAN, PLEASE, INDULGE YOURSELF.

YOU DON'T DESERVE TO BE CHERISHED BY MR. BLACK, NOT WITH YOUR ATTITUDE!
TERUE! CAN'T YOU SEE HOW MR. BLACK TRULY FEELS?!
IT'S OKAY, REALLY!

.....

TERUE-SAN, PLEASE, JUST ONE LITTLE TASTE...

OH? WHAT A LOVELY AROMA...

ズ!

IT'S RICH AND CREAMY, WITH A STRAIGHTFORWARD SWEETNESS THAT JUST DANCES ON YOUR PALATE...

ズ

IT'S DELICIOUS!!

ズズ...

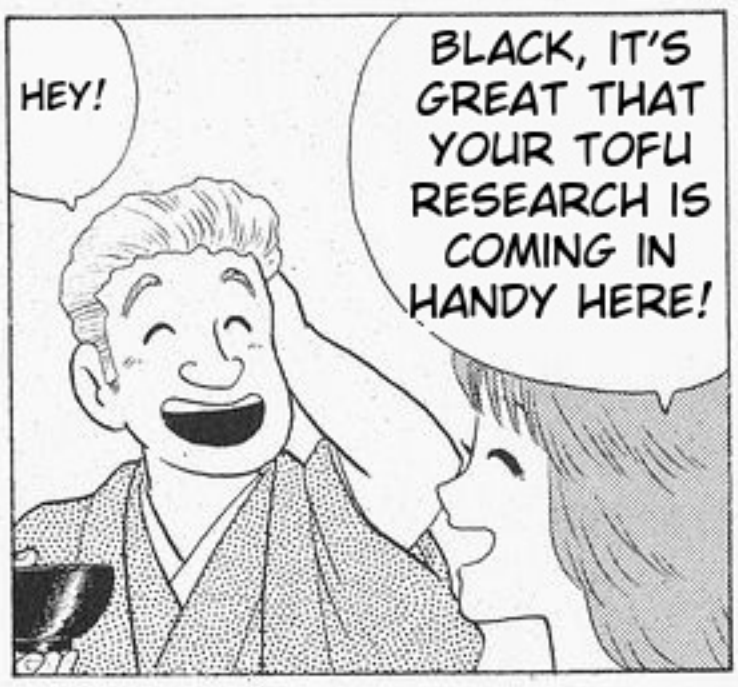
THIS BROTH, MADE WITH GOMA AND MISO, IS KNOWN AS GOMA-JIRU, AND THOSE LITTLE CLUMPS FLOATING ON TOP ARE ACTUALLY PROTEINS FROM THE SOYBEANS.

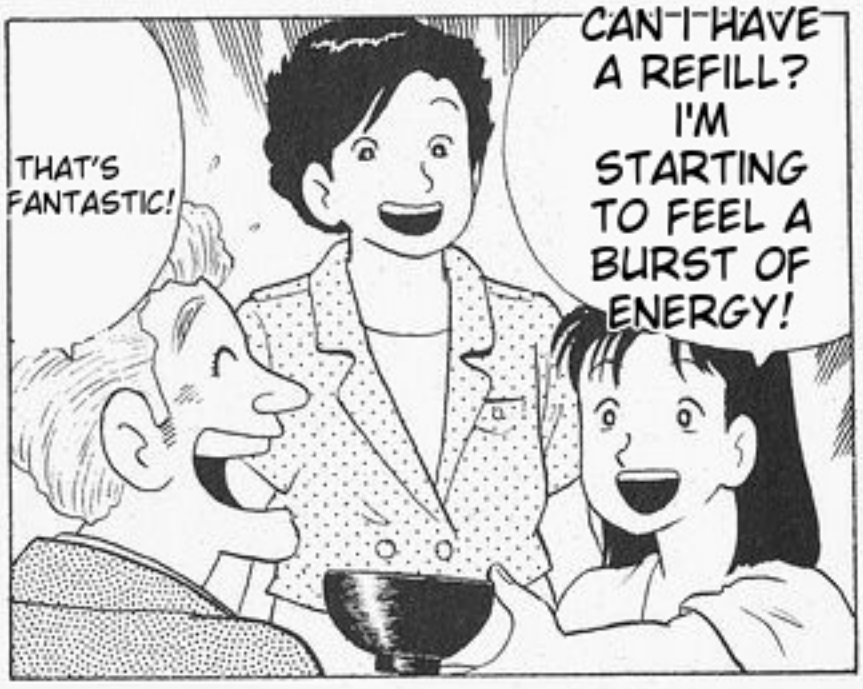
WHAT YOU ADDED TO THE POT EARLIER IS CALLED 'GOMA,' WHICH IS MADE BY GRINDING SOYBEANS SOAKED IN WATER OVERNIGHT.

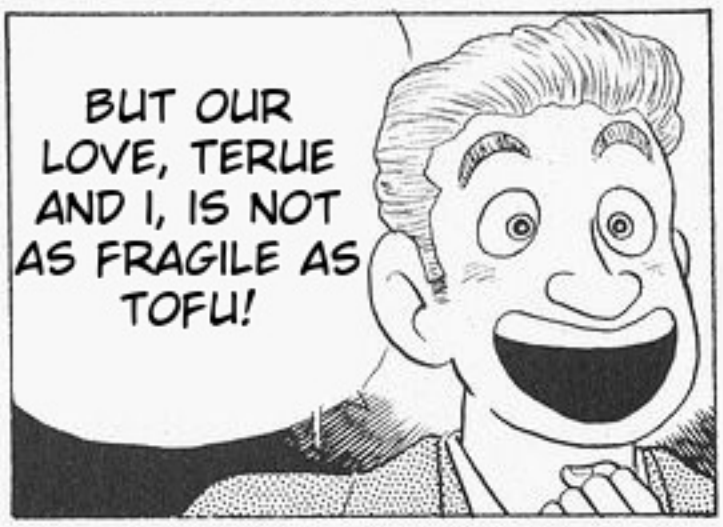
HOORAY!!

Y-YES! I DID IT, I DID IT!!

DELICIOUS!







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IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU. WE'RE HENRY'S PARENTS.

HELLO, EVERYONE!!!

東西新聞社

WHAT'S WRONG? BLACK-SAN, TERUE-SAN? YOU BOTH LOOK SO GLUM...

WELCOME!

HI!

MY POOR PARENTS, I TELL YOU.

WHAT?! A COMEDY DUO?!

REALLY?!

DON'T MESS AROUND NOW!

WELL... THAT'S JUST HOW IT IS...

THEY SUDDENLY DECLARED THEY WANT TO STAY IN JAPAN AND BECOME COMEDIANS...

IF YOU SAW THE COMEDY ACT BETWEEN ME AND TERUKO-NEE, YOU'D UNDERSTAND,

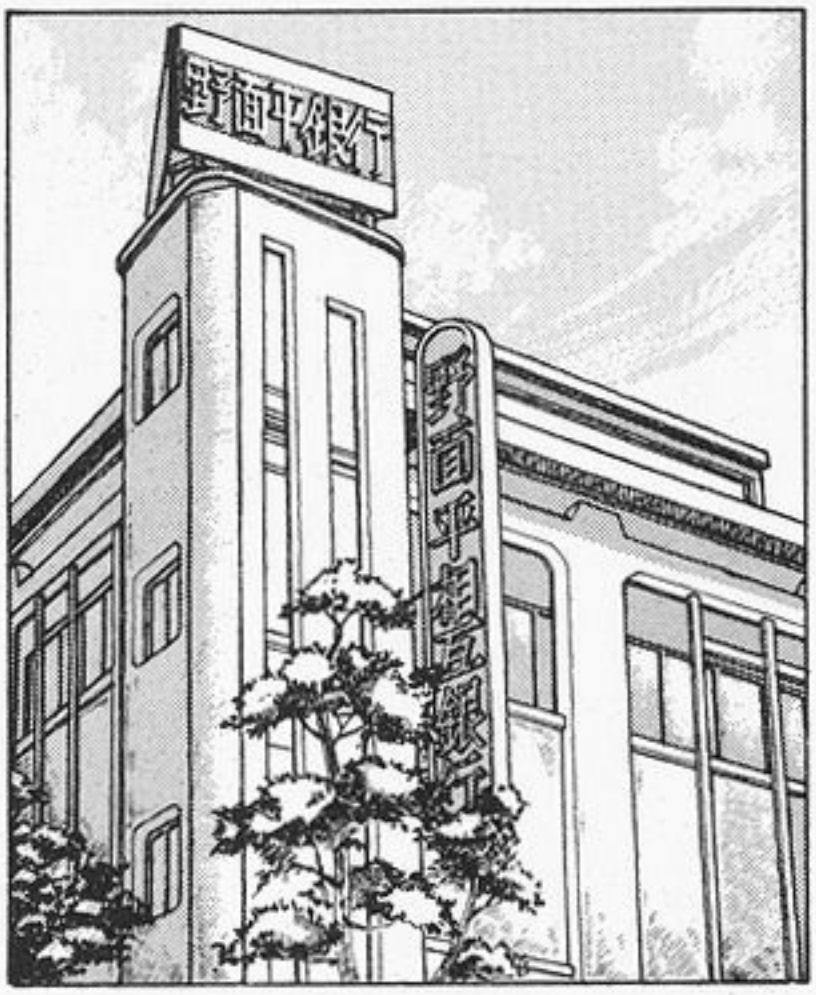
第6話

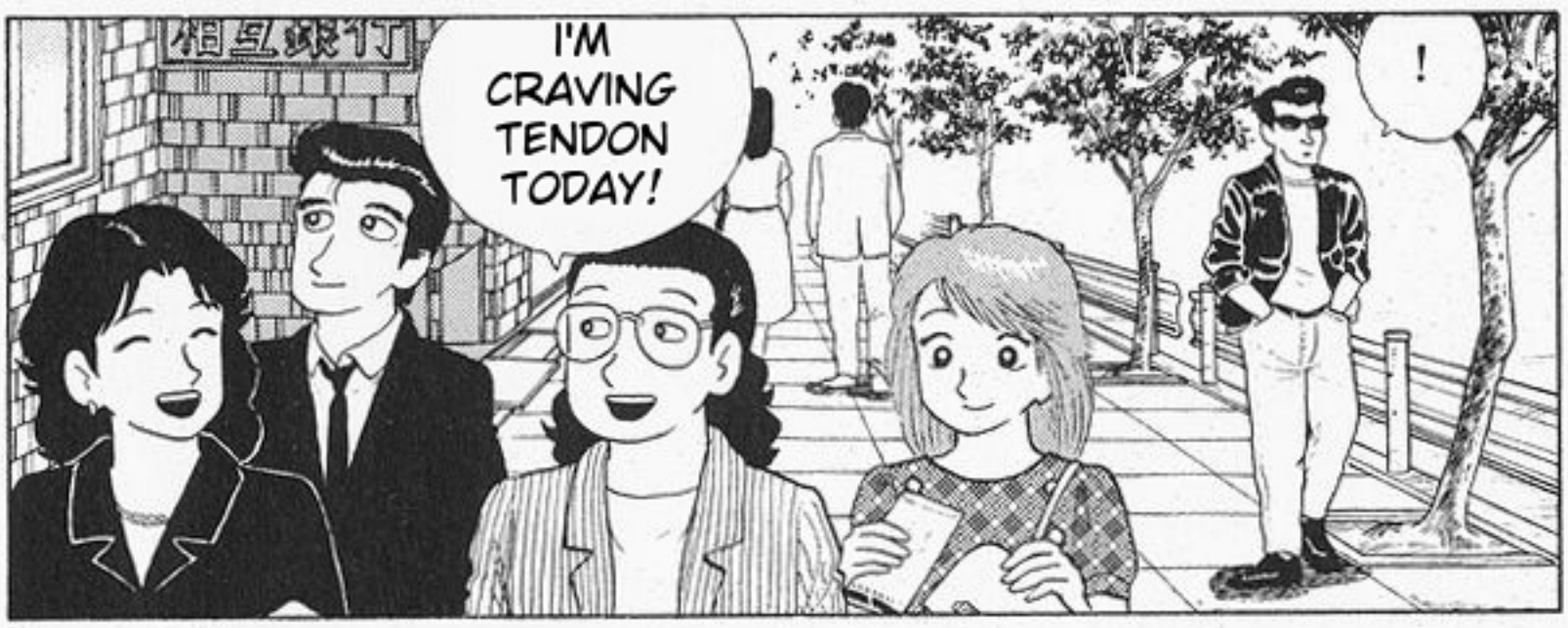
日本風カレー

〈前編〉

I DON'T LIKE GOING TO WITHDRAW MONEY DURING LUNCH BREAK, IT'S TOO CROWDED. ,

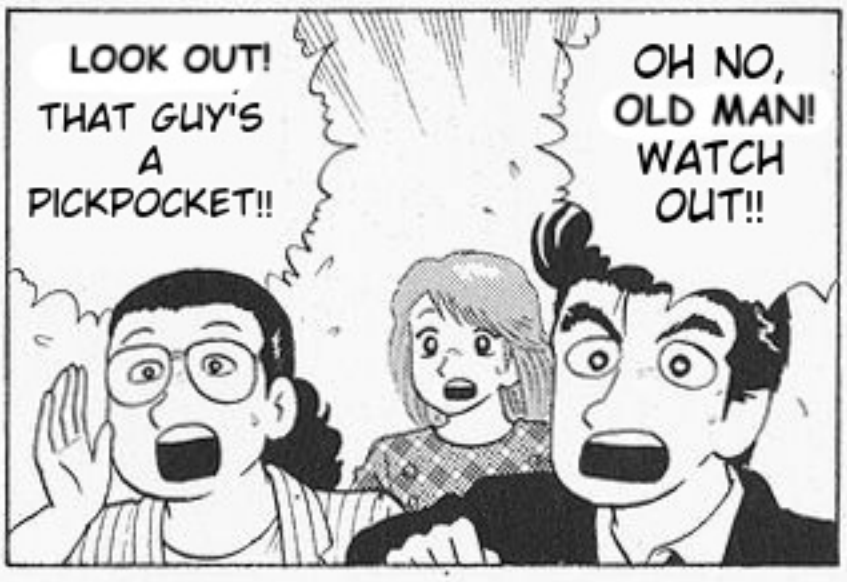
SORRY, I'VE KEPT YOU WAITING .....





2

DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 12



MOVE IT, WILL YA?!

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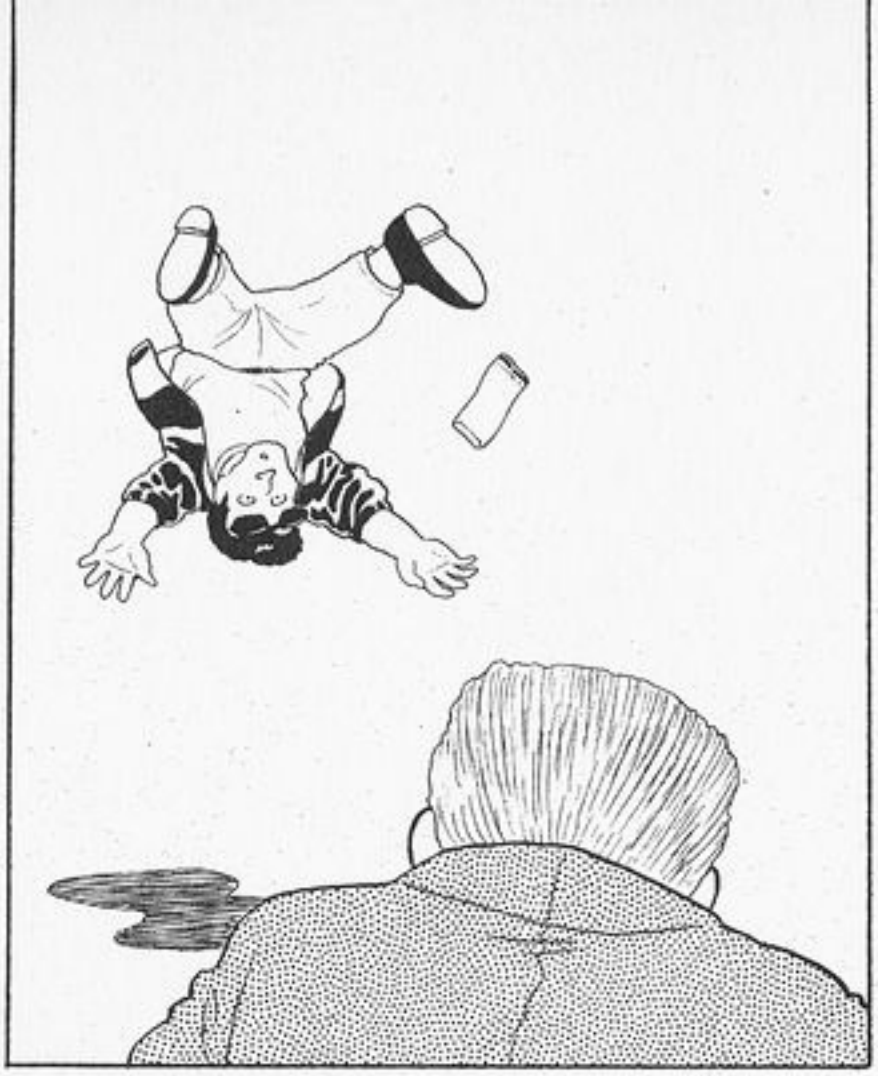

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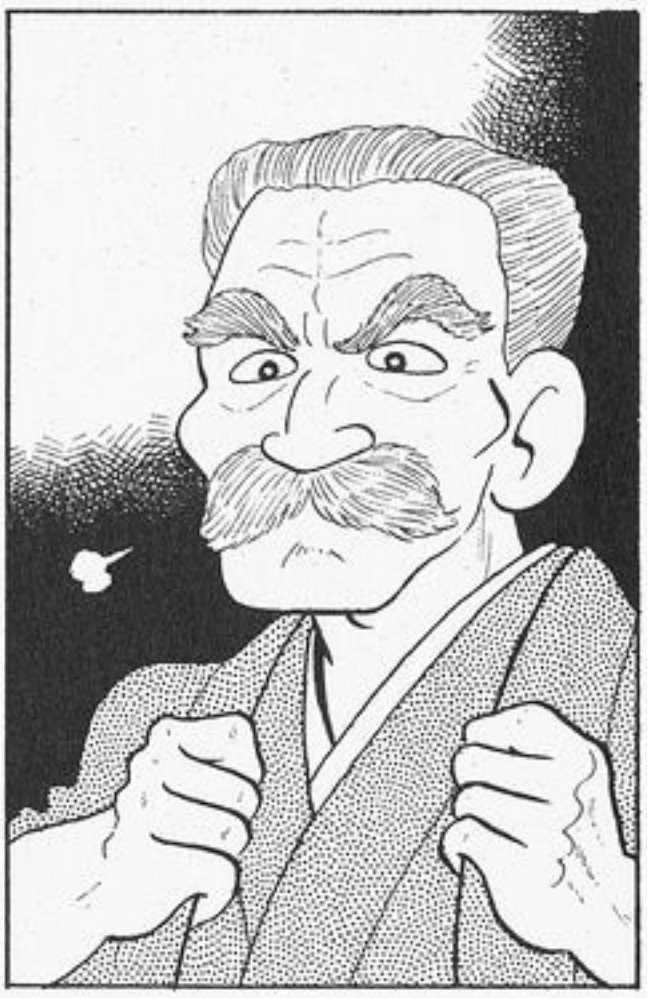
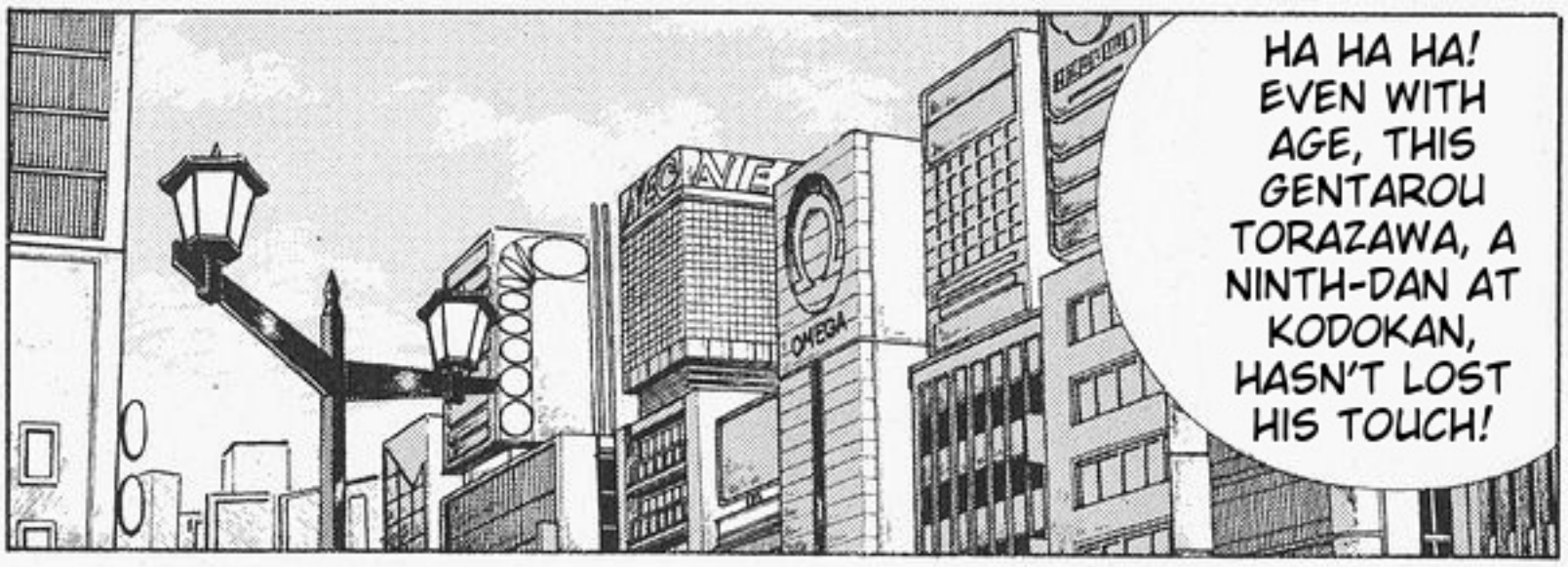
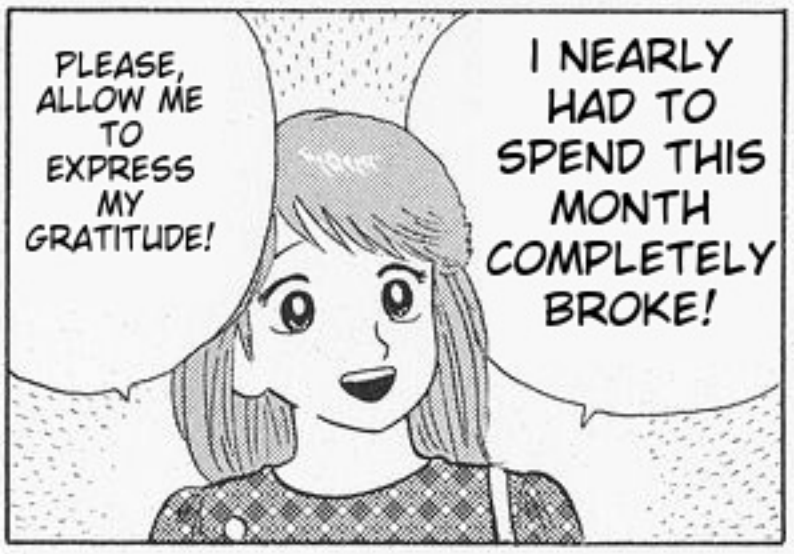



HA HA HA! EVEN WITH AGE, THIS GENTAROU TORAZAWA, A NINTH-DAN AT KODOKAN, HASN'T LOST HIS TOUCH!
OMEGA

TSK...


PLEASE, ALLOW ME TO EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE!
I NEARLY HAD TO SPEND THIS MONTH COMPLETELY BROKE!

HA HA HA! THE WAY I TRAIN IS WORLDS APART FROM THOSE SOFT BOYS NOWADAYS!
WOW, THIS IS HOW A MAN SHOULD BE!

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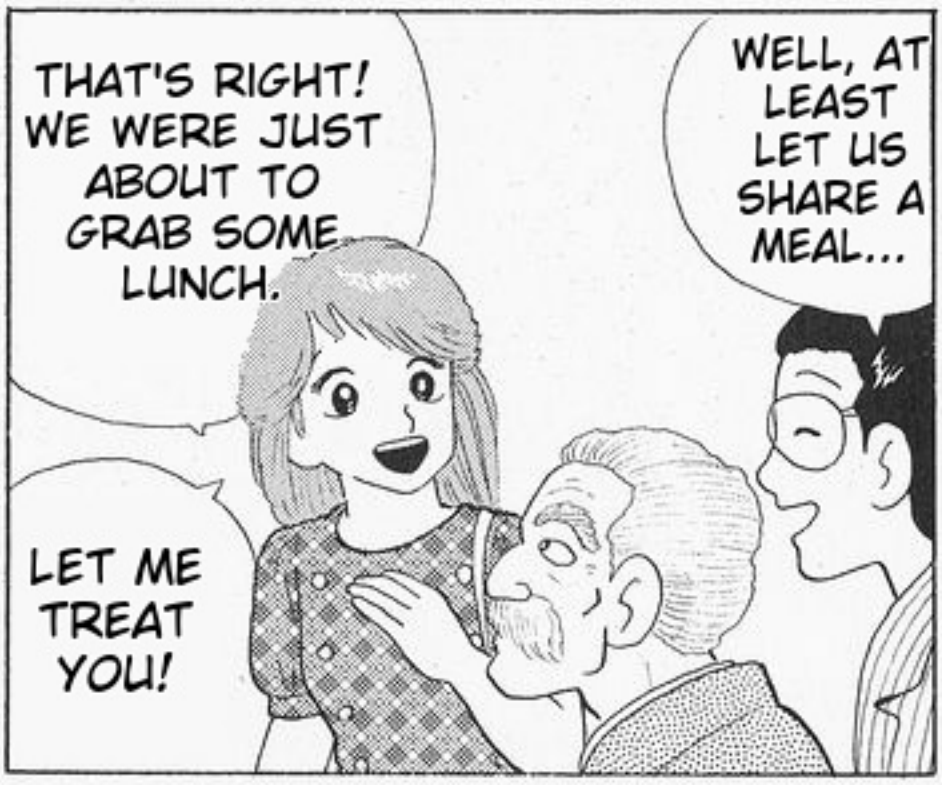
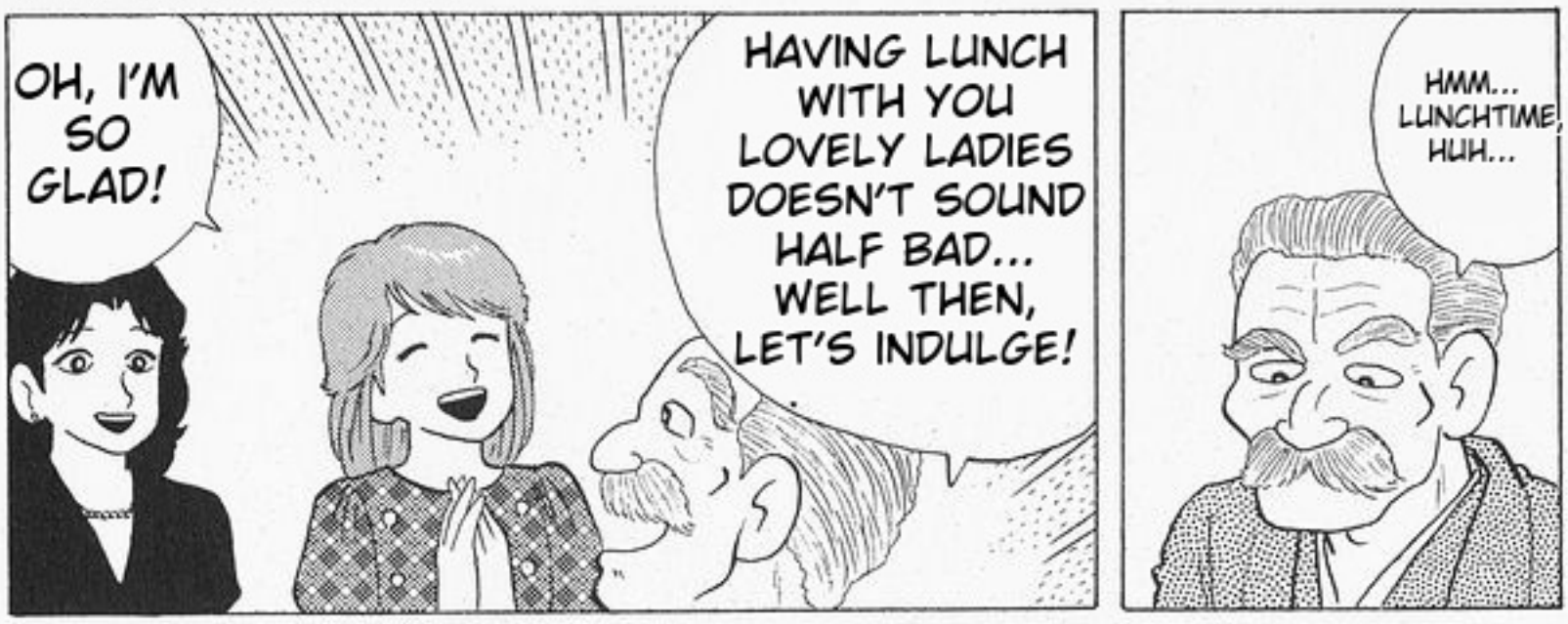
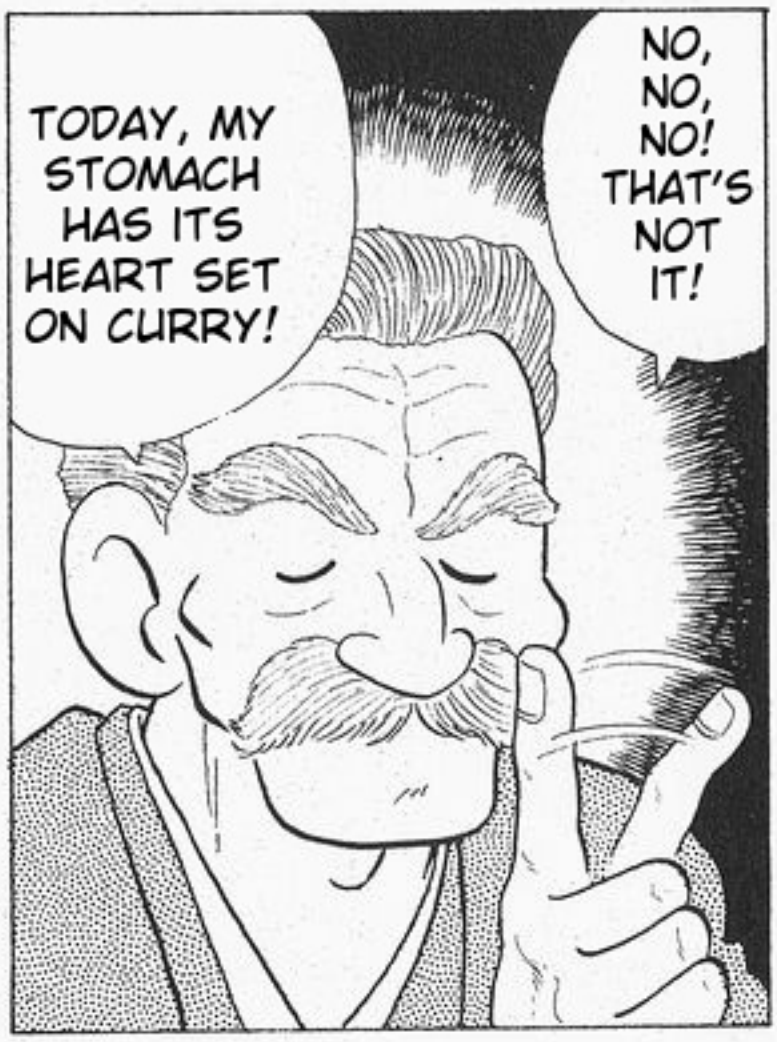
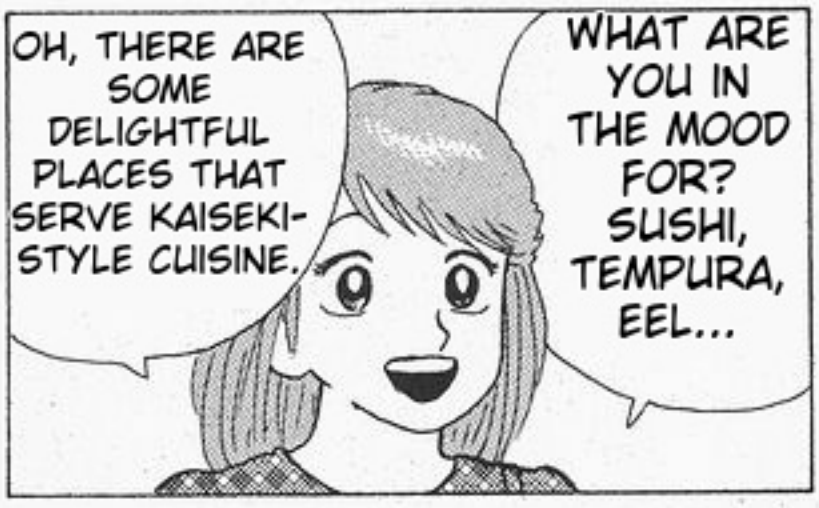

THAT'S RIGHT! WE WERE JUST ABOUT TO GRAB SOME LUNCH.
WELL, AT LEAST LET US SHARE A MEAL...
LET ME TREAT YOU!

THROWING ASIDE A COUPLE OF PUNY PICKPOCKETS IS A PIECE OF CAKE!
OH NO, JUST YOUR GOOD INTENTIONS ARE MORE THAN ENOUGH!

DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 12







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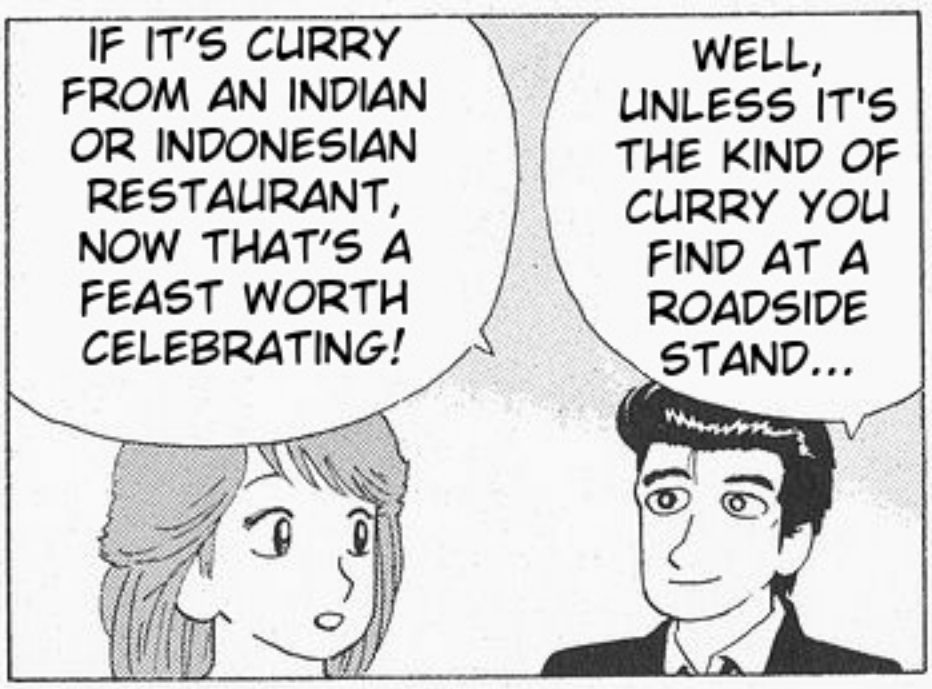


THAT'S NOT THE KIND OF AUTHENTIC CURRY I'M AFTER! I WANT TO FEAST ON THE CURRY FROM A CURRY STAND!

TSK, TSK, TSK!

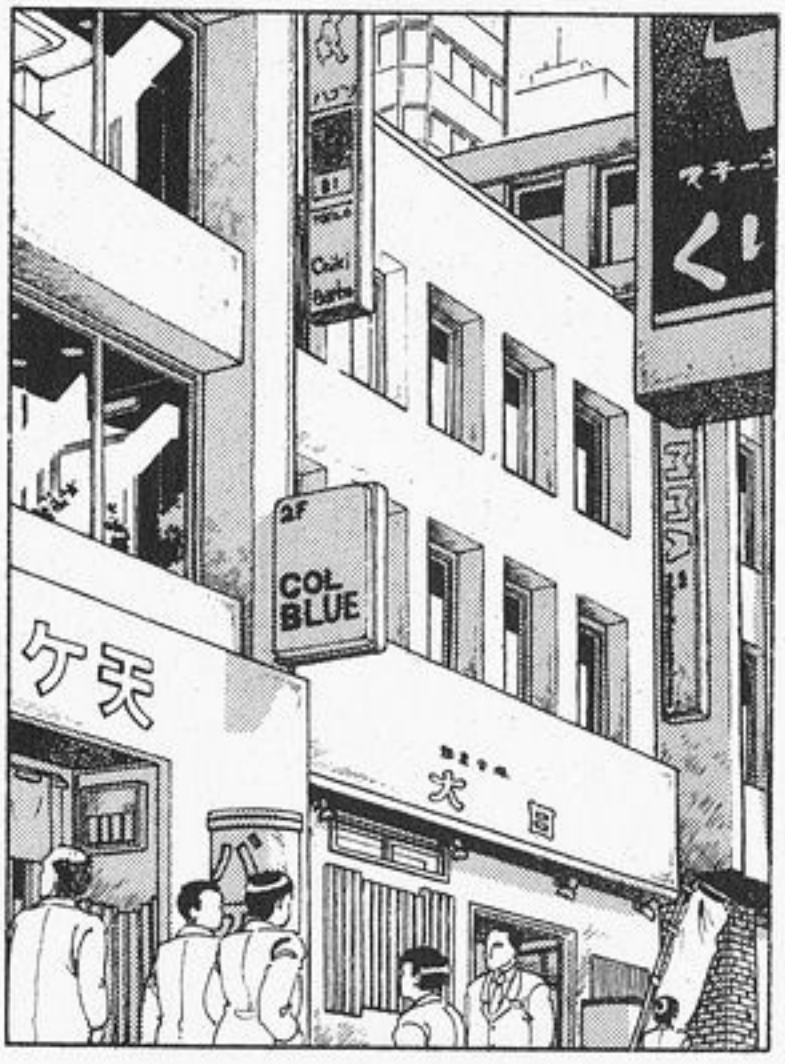
SOUNDS GOOD! LET'S HEAD TO A PLACE LIKE THAT...

ACTUALLY, THE REASON I CAME OUT TO GINZA TODAY WAS TO INDULGE IN THAT CURRY!

WOULD YOU LET ME TAKE CHARGE OF THE RESTAURANT CHOICE?

WHAT?! WHY IS THAT?

8

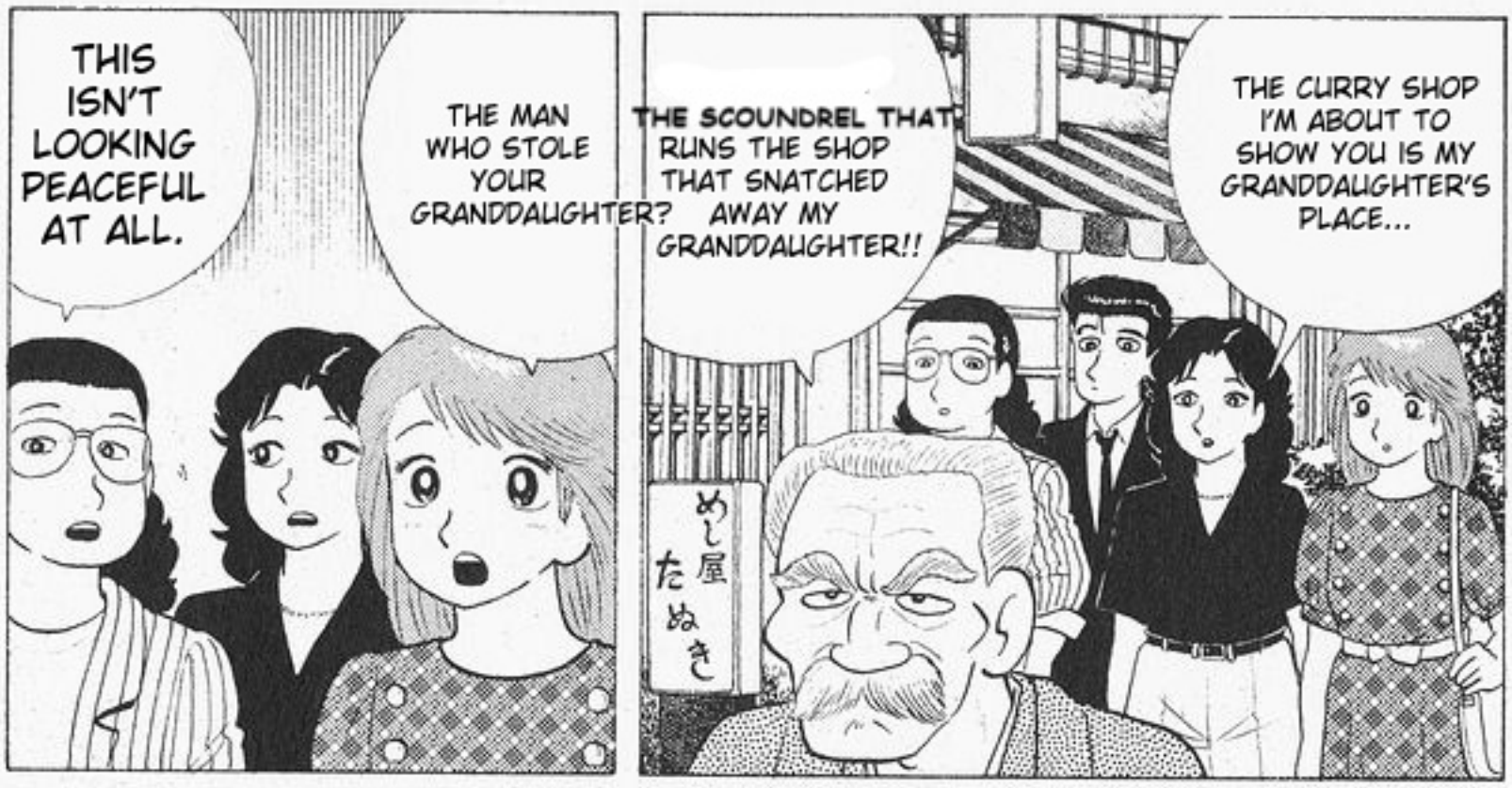


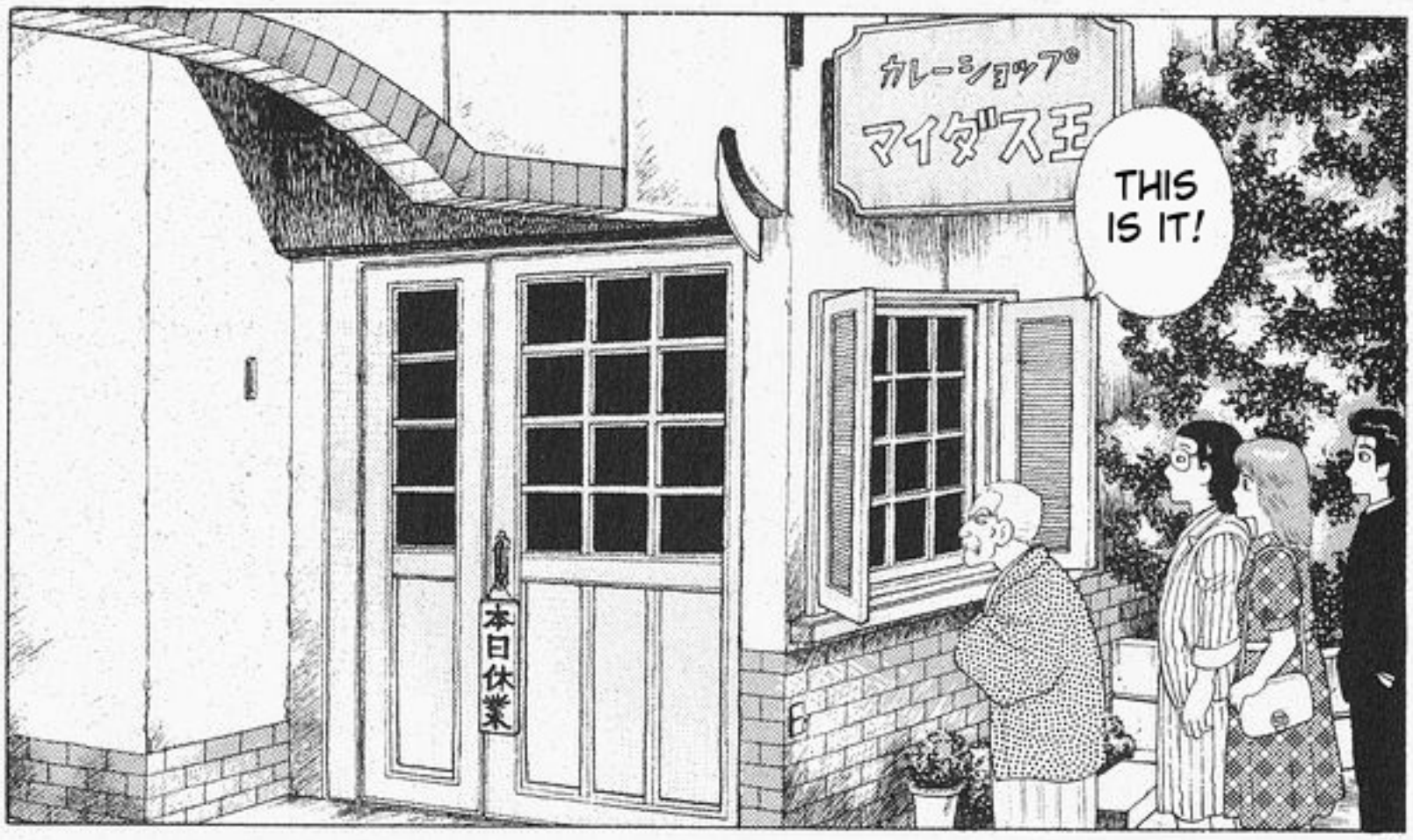
WE'RE FINE WITH THAT, BUT...

AH... DO YOU HAVE A SPECIFIC PLACE IN MIND?

ALRIGHT! THEN LET'S GO!

DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 12





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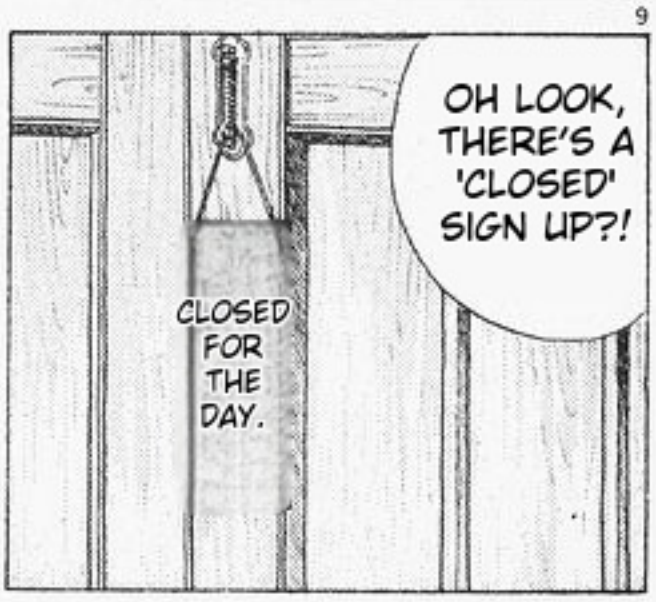

YOU MUST BE LIVING A TOUGH LIFE.

OH, HOW UNFORTUNATE! YOU'VE GOTTEN SO THIN!

OH DEAR, I'VE GAINED THREE KILOS! EVERY DAY HAS BEEN SUCH A JOY!!

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.

WELCOME!!

GRANDPA, WELCOME!

10

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I LOVE ASAE WITH ALL MY HEART...

THAT CAN'T BE TRUE!!

DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 12

11

NOW, SERVE ME THAT CURRY!!

Y- YES...

WHAT THE HECK?! WEREN'T YOU SUPPOSED TO TREAT ME?!

WELL THEN...

OH... YES, EXACTLY THAT!

ESPECIALLY THAT DELIGHTFUL JAPANESE-STYLE CURRY!

I'M ABSOLUTELY CRAZY ABOUT CURRY...

JAPANESE-STYLE, YOU SAY?

DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 12

THAT KIND OF CURRY ENDS UP BEING QUITE WATERY. WHEN YOU POUR IT OVER THE RICE, THE LIQUID IS QUICKLY ABSORBED, MAKING THE GRAINS MUSHY AND UNPLEASANT TO THE PALATE.

RECENTLY, IF YOU GO TO A TRENDY RESTAURANT, THEY SERVE CURRY MADE IN THE AUTHENTIC STYLES OF INDIA OR JAVA.

TO MAKE A RICH SAUCE, I USE FLOUR,

AND I LOVE IT WHEN THAT FLOUR IS THOROUGHLY TOASTED TO UNLEASH A DELIGHTFUL, NUTTY AROMA!

小麦粉

THAT'S BECAUSE THE NATURE OF THE RICE IS DIFFERENT.

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, WHEN THE CURRY IS TOO RUNNY AND SOUPY, IT JUST DOESN'T HARMONIZE WELL WITH THE RICE, DOES IT?

AFTER ALL, I BELIEVE CURRY SHOULD HAVE ENOUGH THICKNESS TO ENVELOP THE RICE GRAINS—NOW THAT'S WHEN IT TRULY TASTES DIVINE!

THAT'S WHY THE COOKED RICE BECOMES EVEN MORE FLUFFY. IT ONLY PAIRS WELL WITH CURRY THAT HAS A LOT OF SAUCE!

RICE FROM SOUTHEAST ASIA TENDS TO BE LONGER AND FLUFFIER COMPARED TO JAPANESE RICE. PLUS, WHEN COOKING, THEY DRAIN THE BROTH HALFWAY THROUGH AND ADD FRESH WATER TO FINISH.

CURRY HAS ENDLESS VARIATIONS DEPENDING ON THE COUNTRY AND REGION!

THAT'S JUST A RIGID, AUTHORITARIAN WAY OF THINKING.

YOU CAN'T REALLY PIN DOWN WHICH CURRY IS THE ORIGINAL, CAN YOU?

EXACTLY! BUT JAPANESE RICE IS STICKY AND CHEWY, SO IT MAKES SENSE THAT A THICKER CURRY PAIRS BETTER WITH IT!

I SEE... SO THE FLUFFY RICE SOAKS UP THE SAUCE, BECOMING DELIGHTFULLY MOIST!

BUT EVERY COOKBOOK SAYS THAT USING FLOUR TO MAKE THE ROUX ISN'T THE REAL DEAL!

HEHE... EVERYONE HAS THEIR LITTLE WEAKNESSES!

I HAVE SUCH FOND MEMORIES OF SCHOOL LUNCH CURRY!

OH REALLY? WELL, I'LL CONFESS TOO! I ABSOLUTELY ADORE THAT BRIGHT YELLOW, THICK CURRY FROM SOBA SHOPS!

14

GINGER TOO...

IN MY HOUSE, WE LOAD IT UP WITH PLENTY OF GARLIC.

UM... ONIONS, CARROTS, POTATOES...

WHEN YOU WHIP UP A CURRY AT HOME, WHAT INGREDIENTS DO YOU REACH FOR?

DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 12

TYPICALLY, JAPANESE CURRY FEATURES PORK, BEEF, LAMB, AND CHICKEN, BUT I CRAVE SOMETHING DIFFERENT!

HMM... THAT SOUNDS ABOUT RIGHT.

WHAT ELSE WILL YOU ADD BESIDES VEGGIES?

GRATE IN SOME APPLE, AND IT'LL MELLOW OUT THE FLAVOR BEAUTIFULLY!

LAMB IS BOTH AFFORDABLE AND DELICIOUS.

AS FOR THE MEAT, IT COULD BE PORK, BEEF, OR EVEN...

I CHALLENGE YOU TO CREATE A CURRY LIKE NO OTHER USING INGREDIENTS BEYOND JUST PORK, BEEF, LAMB, AND CHICKEN!

AND SO I ASSIGNED THIS HOMEWORK TO MY DEAR TOCHIGAWA.

15

YES...

ALRIGHT! LET'S SEE WHAT KIND OF CURRY YOU'VE WHIPPED UP?!

16

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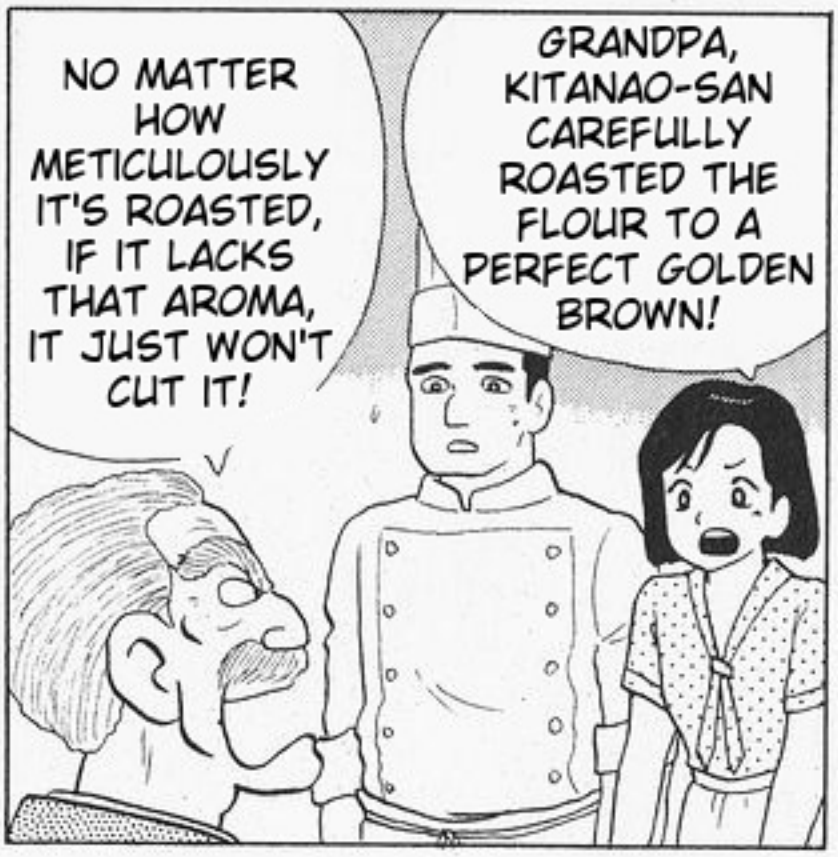
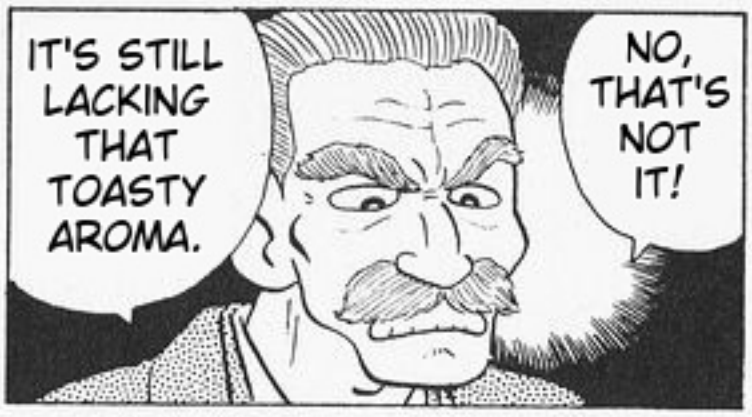
SO WONDERFULLY TOASTY!

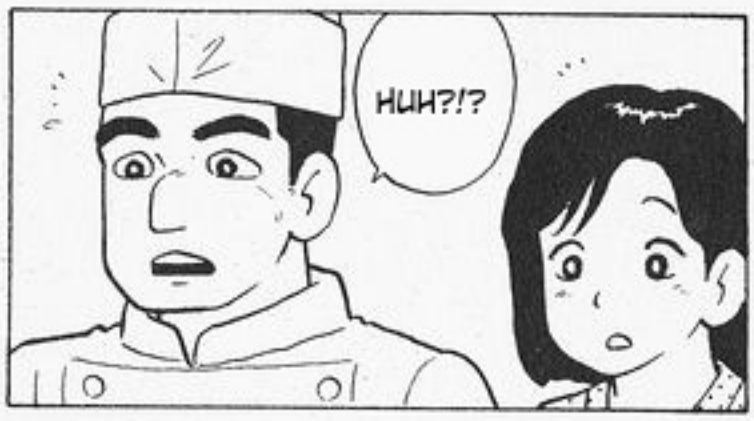
IT REALLY WHETS THE APPETITE!

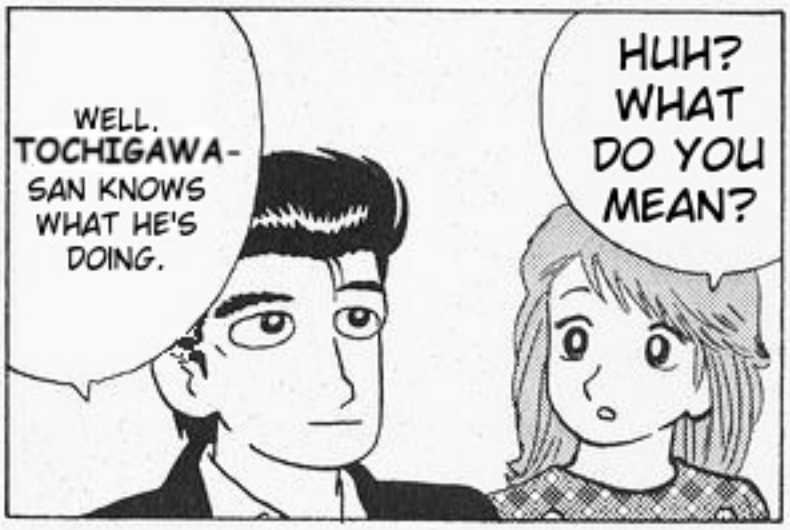
WHAT AN ENTICING AROMA!

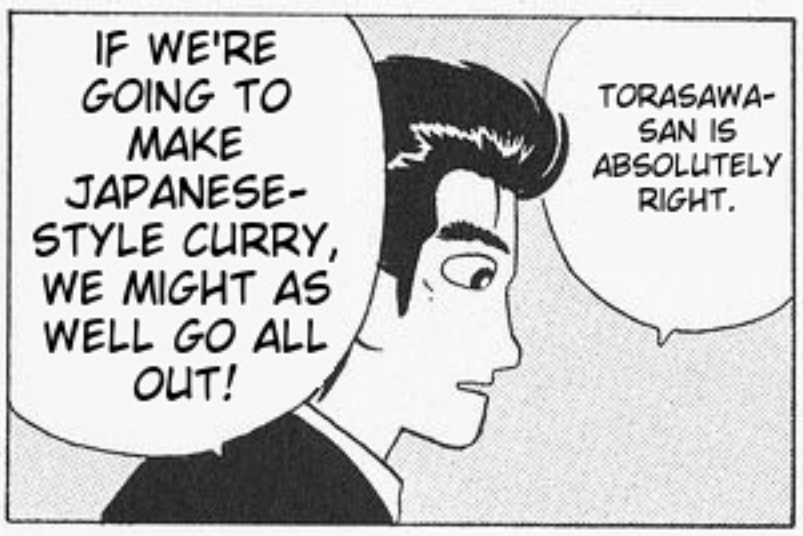
DELICIOUSNESS UNLEASHED 12

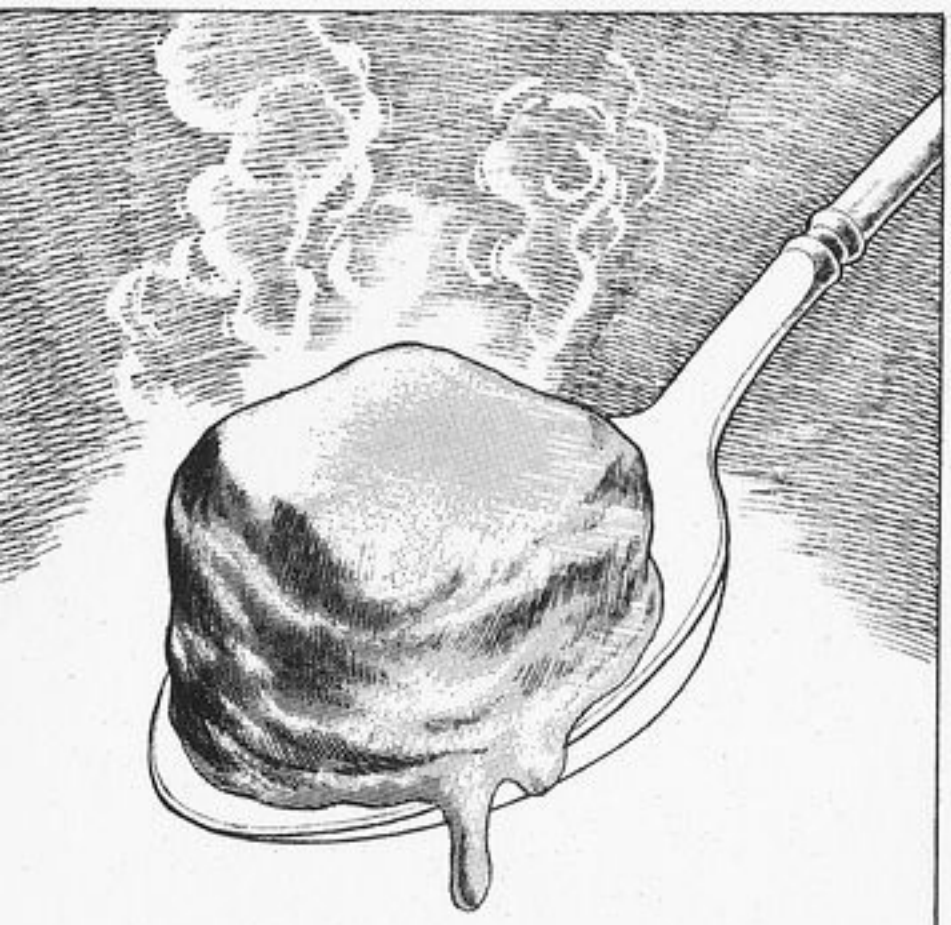












IT'S FISH MEAT.

OH MY, WHAT DO WE HAVE HERE...?

IT'S COD CURRY, ISN'T IT?

YOU'RE RIGHT, IT REALLY IS COD.

I MANAGED TO GET MY HANDS ON SOME COD, EVEN THOUGH IT'S OUT OF SEASON, SO I THOUGHT I'D GIVE IT A TRY.

RIGHT!

HOW DOES IT TASTE?!

18

THIS IS SO BAD, I CAN'T EAT THIS!

THAT'S DISQUALIFIED!

.....

YOU'RE RIGHT, MR. TORAZAWA, THIS CURRY IS A TOTAL FLOP.

NO MATTER HOW DELICIOUS THE DISH, YOU WERE JUST PLANNING TO SLAM IT, WEREN'T YOU?!

THAT'S JUST... CRUEL, GRANDPA!

DON'T BE RIDICULOUS, I WOULD NEVER STOOP TO SUCH COWARDLY TACTICS!!

WHY NOT?!

WHAT?! NO WAY!

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT... THE CURRY LACKS DEPTH OF FLAVOR...

IT JUST CAN'T HOLD ITS OWN AGAINST THIS FRAGRANT, CREAMY CURRY.

PERHAPS IT'S OUT OF SEASON, BUT THIS COD IS DEVOID OF THAT RICH, FATTY GOODNESS. THE TASTE IS RATHER THIN.

19

THAT COMPLETELY DEFEATS THE PURPOSE OF USING NEW INGREDIENTS.

GIVEN THE CHOICE, A CURRY MADE WITH PORK OR BEEF WOULD BE TASTIER.

OH, UGH...

AND YET, IT STILL HAS AN OFF-PUTTING FISHY SMELL...

TRUE... IT'S NOT RICH AT ALL, IS IT?

COME ON, ASAE, LET'S GO!!!

ナニ"

EVERYONE HERE AGREES, THIS CURRY IS A TOTAL FLOP!"

カ"ク

LOOK! JUST AS I SAID, RIGHT?!"

A WARRIOR SPEAKS ONCE AND STANDS BY IT!"

YOU PROMISED YOU'D BREAK UP WITH ASAE IF YOU COULDN'T SATISFY ME, DIDN'T YOU?!

SIR!!!

AHH!!

YOU SHUT UP, TOCHI-GAWA!!!

AH...

バサッ

KITAO!!!

NOW, COME ON.

I HAD EVEN MADE IT TO THE BRINK OF BEING SELECTED FOR THE OLYMPIC JUDO TEAM...

...I WAS A DISCIPLE OF TORAZAWA-SENSEI.

.....

21

I FOUND MYSELF ENTANGLED WITH THE POLICE MORE THAN ONCE...

IN A FIT OF RECKLESSNESS, I FLED FROM THE JUDO WORLD, LIVING A FOOLISH LIFE...

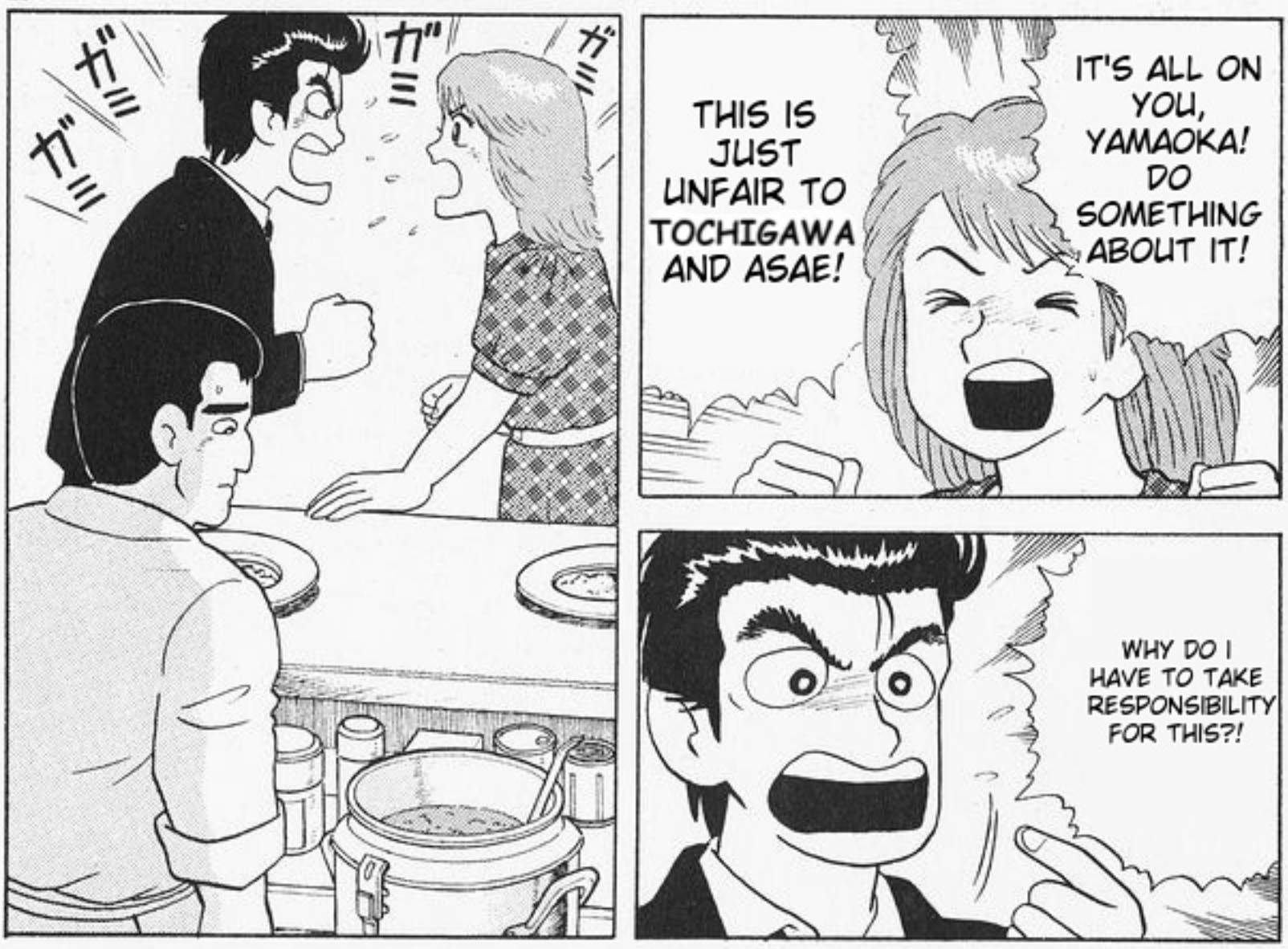
BUT THEN, MY OLYMPIC DREAMS WERE SHATTERED...

BUT THE ARROGANCE GOT TO MY HEAD; I DROVE DRUNK AND HURT SOMEONE,

I OPENED THIS CURRY SHOP AS MY FIRST STEP TOWARDS A FRESH START, BUT MY TEACHER WAS FURIOUS, BELIEVING I HAD DECEIVED ASAE AND WHISKED HER AWAY...

IT WAS ASAE WHO CAME TO MY RESCUE WHEN I WAS IN DESPAIR. DEFYING THE TEACHER, SHE STOOD BY ME TO HELP ME RISE FROM MY OWN RUINS...

YOU PROMISED TO RETURN ASAE IF YOU COULDN'T FINISH YOUR HOMEWORK.
SO THIS IS WHAT THE HOMEWORK IS ABOUT...
DON'T GIVE ME THAT! YOU GUYS SAID IT WAS BAD TOO, DIDN'T YOU?!
EXACTLY, IT'S ALL YAMAOKA'S FAULT!
YAMAOKA'S TO BLAME! RIDING ON TORAZAWA'S COATTAILS, CLAIMING THIS CURRY IS AWFUL!!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THIS IS JUST UNFAIR TO TOCHIGAWA AND ASAE!
IT'S ALL ON YOU, YAMAOKA! DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT!
WHY DO I HAVE TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS?!

第6話

日本風カレー

〈後編〉

BELIEVE IT OR NOT, I'VE BEEN TOSSED AROUND LIKE A RAG DOLL BY THAT OLD MAN MYSELF.

I TEACH AT SEVERAL UNIVERSITY JUDO CLUBS, AND I OCCASIONALLY GET CALLED IN BY THE TOKYO METROPOLITAN POLICE.

WOW, HE REALLY TOSSED YOU AROUND?

TORAZAWA GENTARO, THAT OLD MAN, IS LIKE A KINGPIN IN THE WORLD OF JUDO IN JAPAN.

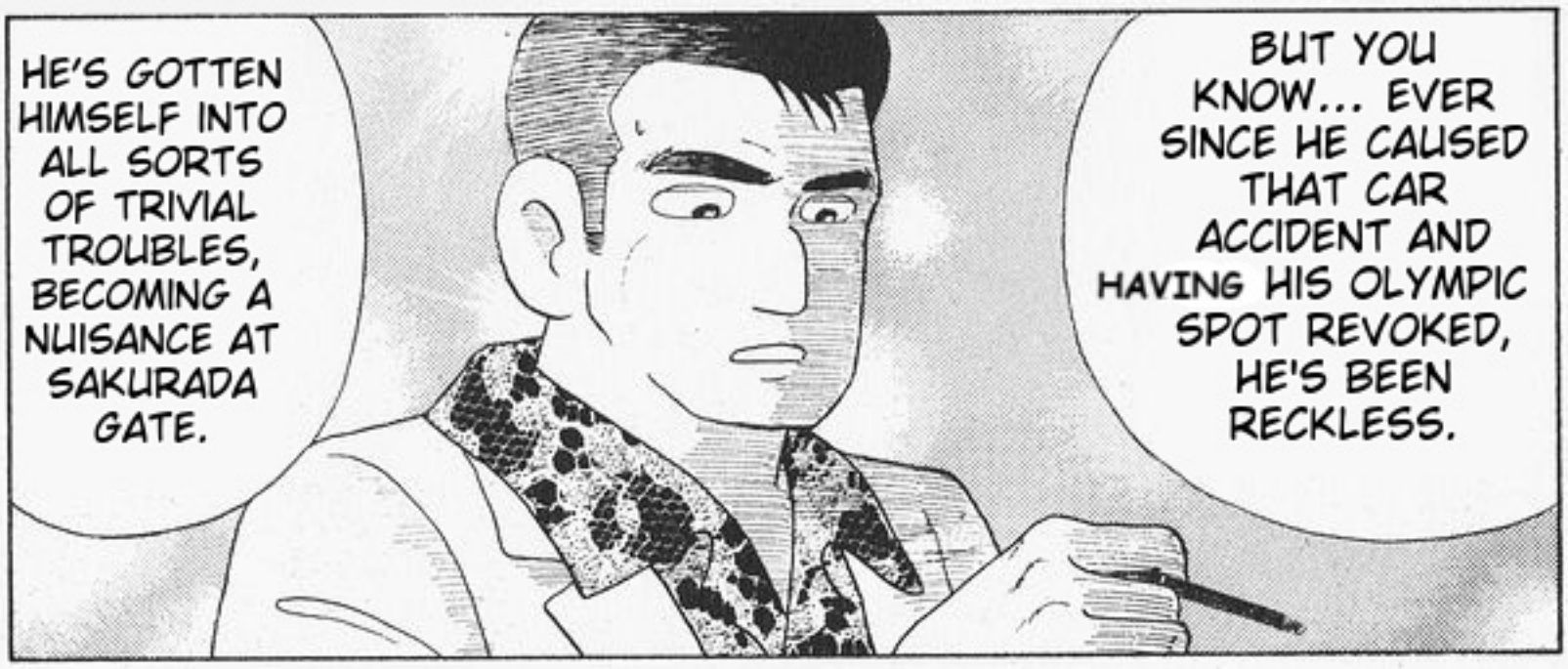
SO, IT SOUNDS LIKE TOCHIGAWA WAS QUITE THE PRODIGY.

I HAVE MY OWN DOJO, BUT ONLY THOSE I DEEM TRULY EXCEPTIONAL CAN STEP THROUGH ITS DOORS.

IT SEEMS THAT THE OLD TIGER, TORAZAWA, CHERISHED HIM LIKE A SON.

TOCHIGAWA WON THE STUDENT CHAMPIONSHIP AND WAS HAILED AS A SUREFIRE GOLD MEDALIST FOR THE OLYMPICS.

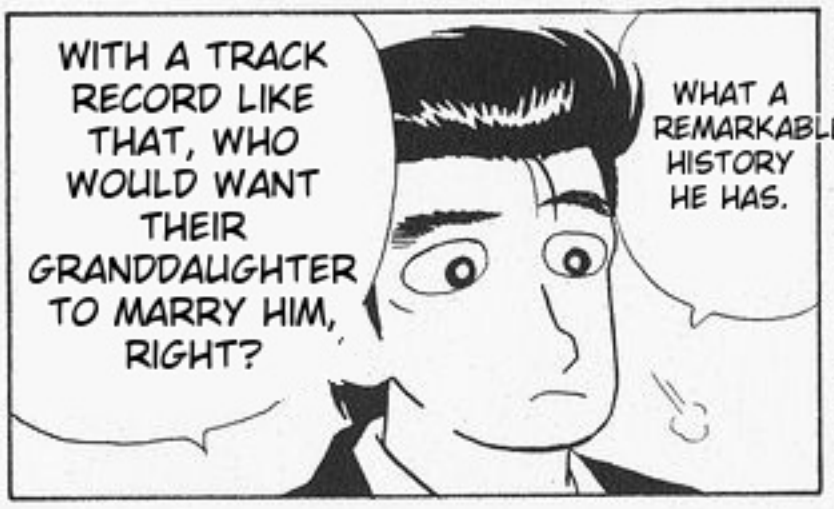
DELICIOUS!

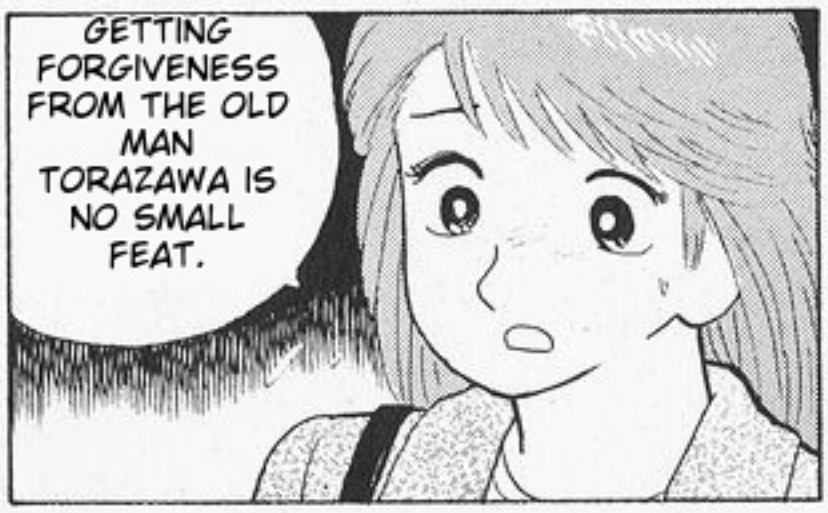

HE'S GOTTEN HIMSELF INTO ALL SORTS OF TRIVIAL TROUBLES, BECOMING A NUISANCE AT SAKURADA GATE.
BUT YOU KNOW... EVER SINCE HE CAUSED THAT CAR ACCIDENT AND HAVING HIS OLYMPIC SPOT REVOKED, HE'S BEEN RECKLESS.

AND TO TOP IT ALL OFF, HE ATTEMPTED MURDER, NEARLY TAKING OUT A YAKUZA EXECUTIVE!

IT'S ALL ONE BIG FIGHT. I MEAN, HE'S JUST THAT STRONG...
WELL... THERE ARE FIVE ASSAULT CASES ON HIS RECORD,

3


WITH A TRACK RECORD LIKE THAT, WHO WOULD WANT THEIR GRANDDAUGHTER TO MARRY HIM, RIGHT?
WHAT A REMARKABLE HISTORY HE HAS.


GETTING FORGIVENESS FROM THE OLD MAN TORAZAWA IS NO SMALL FEAT.

INCREDIBLE...
IT WAS FORTUNATE THAT THE JUDGE RECOGNIZED THE OTHER PARTY'S WICKEDNESS, GRANTING A SUSPENDED SENTENCE AND SAVING HIM FROM DISASTER.

カレーショップ
マイダス王
当分の間休業致します

……

4

THIS IS INSPECTOR NAKAMATSU FROM THE GINZA CENTRAL STATION. HE'S THE KIND OF GUY WHO THINKS WE SHOULD JUST ROUND UP ANY CHEF WHO COOKS UP SOMETHING TERRIBLE!

I'VE BROUGHT A GUEST!

OH, WELCOME!!

カラ…

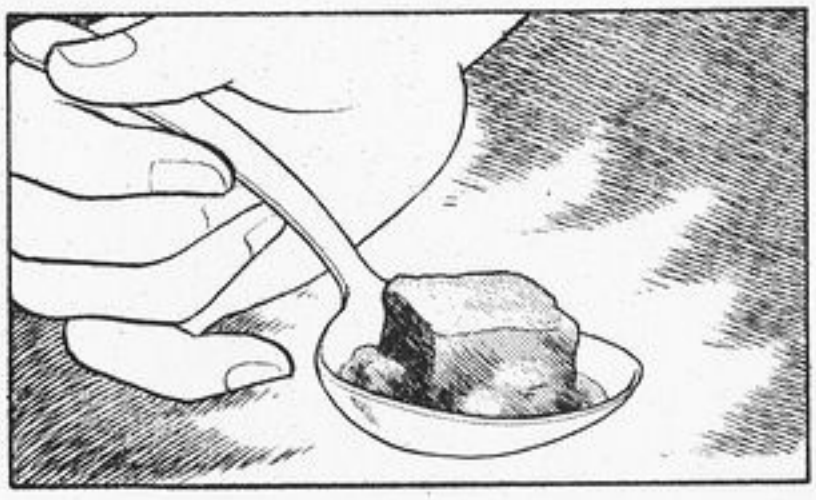
DELICIOUS!

SO, HOW'S IT GOING? HAVE YOU WHIPPED UP A NEW CURRY?!

OH WOW... THIS IS TERRIFYING...
HEY HEY, DON'T GO MAKING WILD CLAIMS!

I GAVE IT A SHOT, BUT...
YES...

GIVE IT A TRY!
WHAT'S THE SECRET INGREDIENT THIS TIME?



I HEARD YOU WEREN'T USING ANY BEEF, PORK, CHICKEN, OR LAMB THIS TIME.
LET'S DIG IN!
DOES THAT MEAN IT'S MADE FROM SEAFOOD?

OFTEN CALLED THE BEEF OF THE FIELDS, AND SPECIFICALLY USED THICK FRIED TOFU BECAUSE IT HOLDS ITS SHAPE WELL WHEN SIMMERED.

YES, I THOUGHT ABOUT USING SOY PRODUCTS,

IS IT THICK FRIED TOFU?

OH, WHAT'S THIS?

I QUICKLY FRIED THE FRESH WHEAT GLUTEN AND PAIRED IT WITH THE SAUCE.

I TOOK INSPIRATION FROM VEGETARIAN CUISINE.

FRESH WHEAT GLUTEN!

HMM... WHAT A FASCINATING IDEA.

IT'S DEFINITELY UNIQUE...

PLEASE, ENJOY THIS AS WELL.

6

.....

SO, WHAT DO YOU THINK...?

DELICIOUS!

EVEN NOW, CURRY IS SUPPOSEDLY THE MOST POPULAR DISH IN SCHOOL LUNCHES.

ISN'T THAT UNIVERSAL?

WHEN I WAS A KID, THE MERE WHIFF OF CURRY WOULD SEND MY HEART RACING WITH EXCITEMENT.

THESE DAYS, CURRY HAS BECOME JUST ANOTHER EVERYDAY MEAL,

THIS CURRY JUST DOESN'T HAVE THAT SPARK TO SET MY HEART AFLAME.

EXACTLY! THAT'S THE POINT I'M TRYING TO MAKE!!

HUH?

BUT BACK THEN, DURING CAMP WRAP-UPS OR KIDS' GATHERINGS, WE'D OFTEN WHIP UP A POT OF CURRY TOGETHER, AND JUST HEARING THE WORD WOULD MAKE MY HEART LEAP!

PLUS, THICK FRIED TOFU AND FRESH WHEAT GLUTEN LACK THE ROBUST FLAVORS OF MEAT, SO WHEN YOU EAT THEM, THEY LEAVE YOU FEELING A LITTLE FLAT, DON'T YOU THINK?

WELL, LET'S SEE...

BUT COME ON, CAN YOU REALLY FEEL UPLIFTED EATING JUST PLAIN OLD VEGETARIAN FARE?!

THICK FRIED TOFU PACKS SOYBEAN PROTEIN, FRESH WHEAT GLUTEN OFFERS WHEAT PROTEIN; THEY TASTE DECENT AND ARE DEFINITELY GOOD FOR YOU.

7

UMM...

THAT CURRY I HAD AGES AGO AT A DINER IN KANDA WAS BURSTING WITH A RICH, TOASTY AROMA.

YEAH, THAT'S TRUE. I FEEL LIKE MY DISH IS LACKING IN FRAGRANCE...

YES...

JUST THE OTHER DAY, OLD MAN TORAZAWA MENTIONED THAT TOCHIGAWA'S CURRY WAS LACKING A BIT IN THAT DELIGHTFUL TOASTINESS.

AND ABOUT THE AROMA OF THE CURRY,

WHEN YOU SAUTÉ CURRY POWDER, IT RELEASES A TRULY WONDERFUL AROMA...

EXACTLY, THAT'S IT!

BUT WHEN YOU SAUTÉ IT, YOU DEFINITELY BRING OUT A DELIGHTFUL TOASTINESS, THOUGH IT DOES CAUSE SOME OF THE OTHER AROMATIC COMPONENTS TO VANISH...

I KNOW YOU UNDERSTAND THE REASON BEHIND THAT, RIGHT, TOCHIGAWA?

TRADITIONALLY, JAPANESE-STYLE CURRY INVOLVES SAUTÉING THE CURRY POWDER ALONG WITH FLOUR.

RIGHT!

8

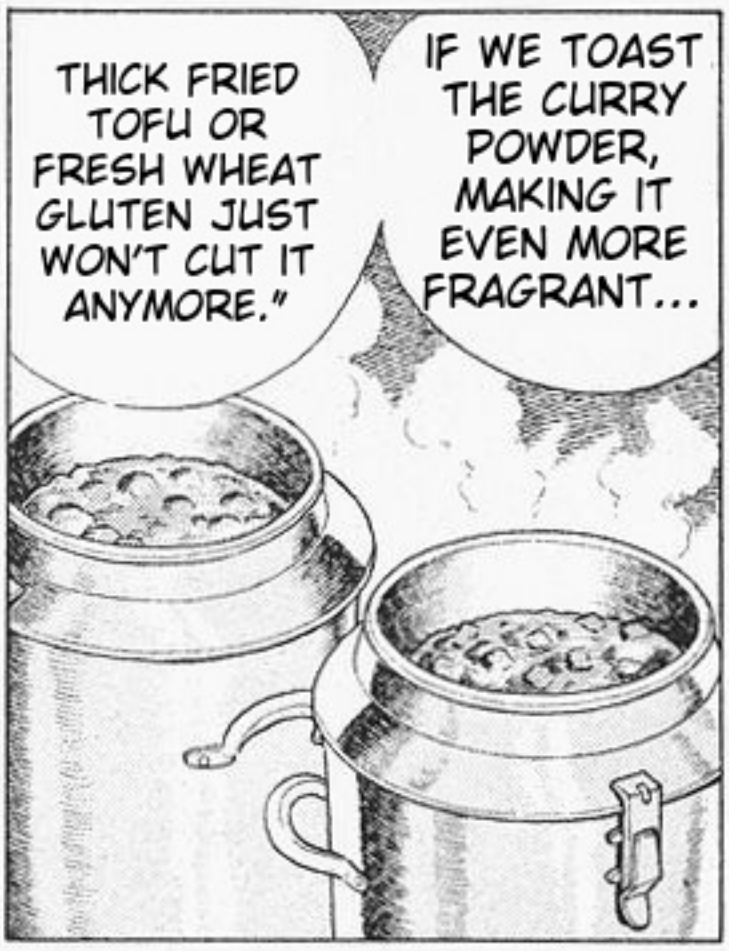
DOING IT THIS WAY ALLOWS YOU TO ENJOY THE TRUE FLAVOR OF THE CURRY POWDER WHILE ALSO ADDING THAT PERFECT TOASTINESS!

OH, I SEE.

YOU ONLY NEED TO SAUTÉ A THIRD OF THE TOTAL AMOUNT!

SAUTÉ A THIRD OF THE CURRY POWDER YOU PLAN TO USE,

DELICIOUS!



*TL NOTE: IT'S NOT AN "AMERICAN CONSPIRACY". THE GLOBAL WHALE POPULATIONS AT THIS TIME WERE ENDANGERED AND JAPAN'S WHALING WAS NOT SUSTAINABLE. THIS'LL NO DOUBT COME UP AGAIN IN THE NEXT VOLUME...

ASAE!!

KITAO!!

ピンポーン

I'M SO SORRY FOR CAUSING YOU WORRY...

MY GRANDPA KEEPS SUCH A TIGHT WATCH ON ME... I FINALLY MANAGED TO SNEAK OUT UNDER THE PRETEXT OF TAKING CHIRO FOR A WALK!!

10

YOU BEAR NO RESEMBLANCE TO OLD MAN TORAZAWA'S GRUFFNESS; YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY CHARMING!!

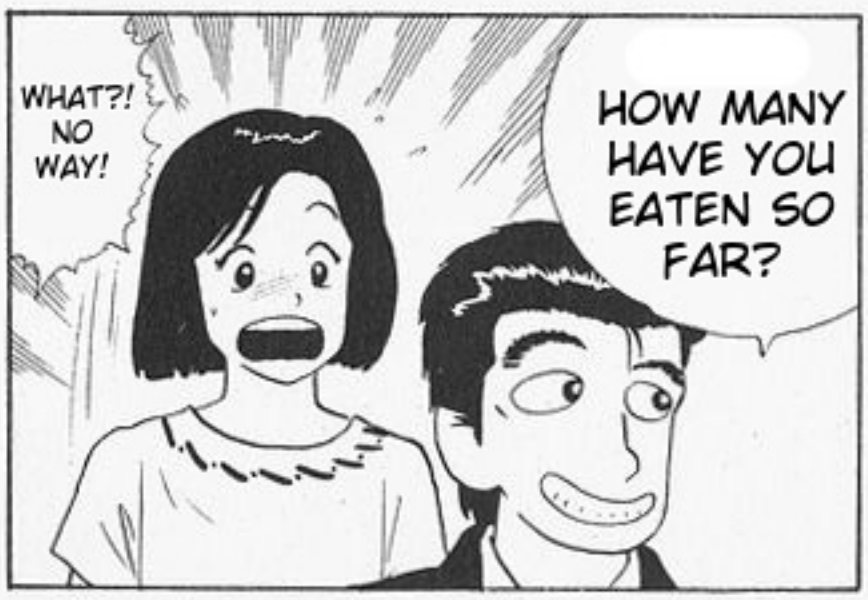
AHH... SO THIS IS OLD MAN TORAZAWA'S GRANDCHILD!

I JUST CAN'T SEEM TO GET IT RIGHT...

BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, WHAT ABOUT THE CURRY?

DELICIOUS!

11



LOOK, I'LL BUY YOU SOME CROQUETTES, ALRIGHT?

WHOA, IT WAS JUST A JOKE!!!

GIVE HIM BACK TO ME!

DON'T EAT CHIRO!!

OKAY, HOW ABOUT FOUR!!!

ROARRR!!

TWO FOR ALL OF US?

HOW MANY?

12

ALRIGHT, YOU GOT A DEAL.

TCH! MAKE THAT TWELVE CROQUETTES, PLEASE!

DELICIOUS!

LOOK, LET ME SHARE SOME WITH YOU!

THIS IS A THEME WORTHY OF RESEARCH!
HOW IS IT THAT FRESH CROQUETTES FROM THE BUTCHER TASTE SO UNBELIEVABLY DELICIOUS?!

WELL, I'M GLAD FOR YOU, CHIRO!
WELL, OF COURSE, DOGS PREFER BONES OVER CROQUETTES ANY DAY!

FOR DOGS, THIS IS THE ULTIMATE TREAT.
HOLD ON, HOLD ON,

SURE, IT WAS ALL THICK AND MEATY, BUT IT'S GOT A SATISFYING CRUNCH, DOESN'T IT?
I BROUGHT THIS STRAIGHT FROM THE BUTCHER!

DON'T BE SO CRUEL!

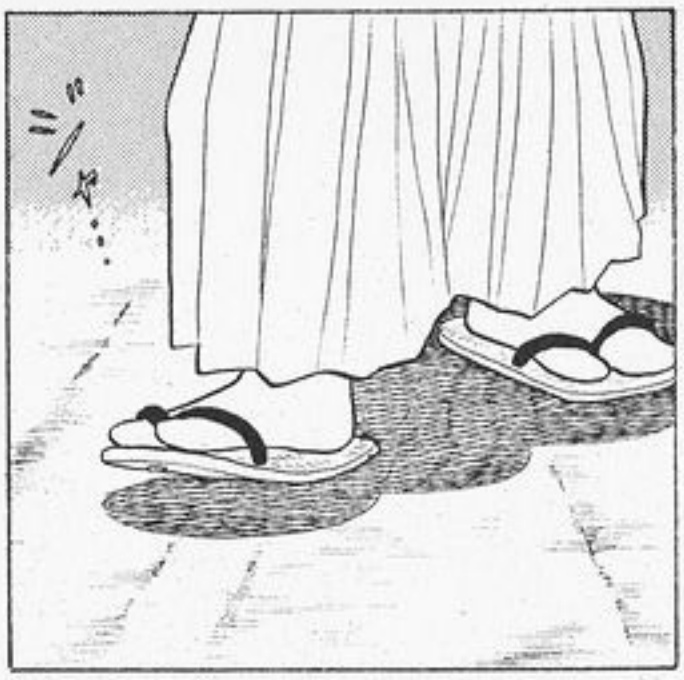
YAMAOKA, WHAT ARE YOU DOING TAKING AWAY THAT DOG'S BONE?!

WHAT?! NO WAY!

WHAT?!

INSPECTOR NAKAMATSU! YOU'VE CRACKED THAT TOUGH CASE WIDE OPEN!! WE FOUND THE INGREDIENTS FOR THE CURRY!

DELICIOUS!



15

YES...

YOU'D BETTER NOT SHOW YOUR FACE IN FRONT OF ME AND ASAE EVER AGAIN!!

LISTEN UP, THIS IS YOUR FINAL CHANCE! IF YOU DON'T SERVE UP SOMETHING DECENT TODAY,

I UNDERSTAND.

BUT IF YOU'RE A MAN, KEEP YOUR WORD- TODAY IS IT.

HONESTLY, THIS SHOULD HAVE BEEN THE END RIGHT THEN AND THERE. BUT BECAUSE ASAE BEGGED ME WITH TEARS IN HER EYES, I DECIDED TO GIVE YOU ONE LAST SHOT.

16

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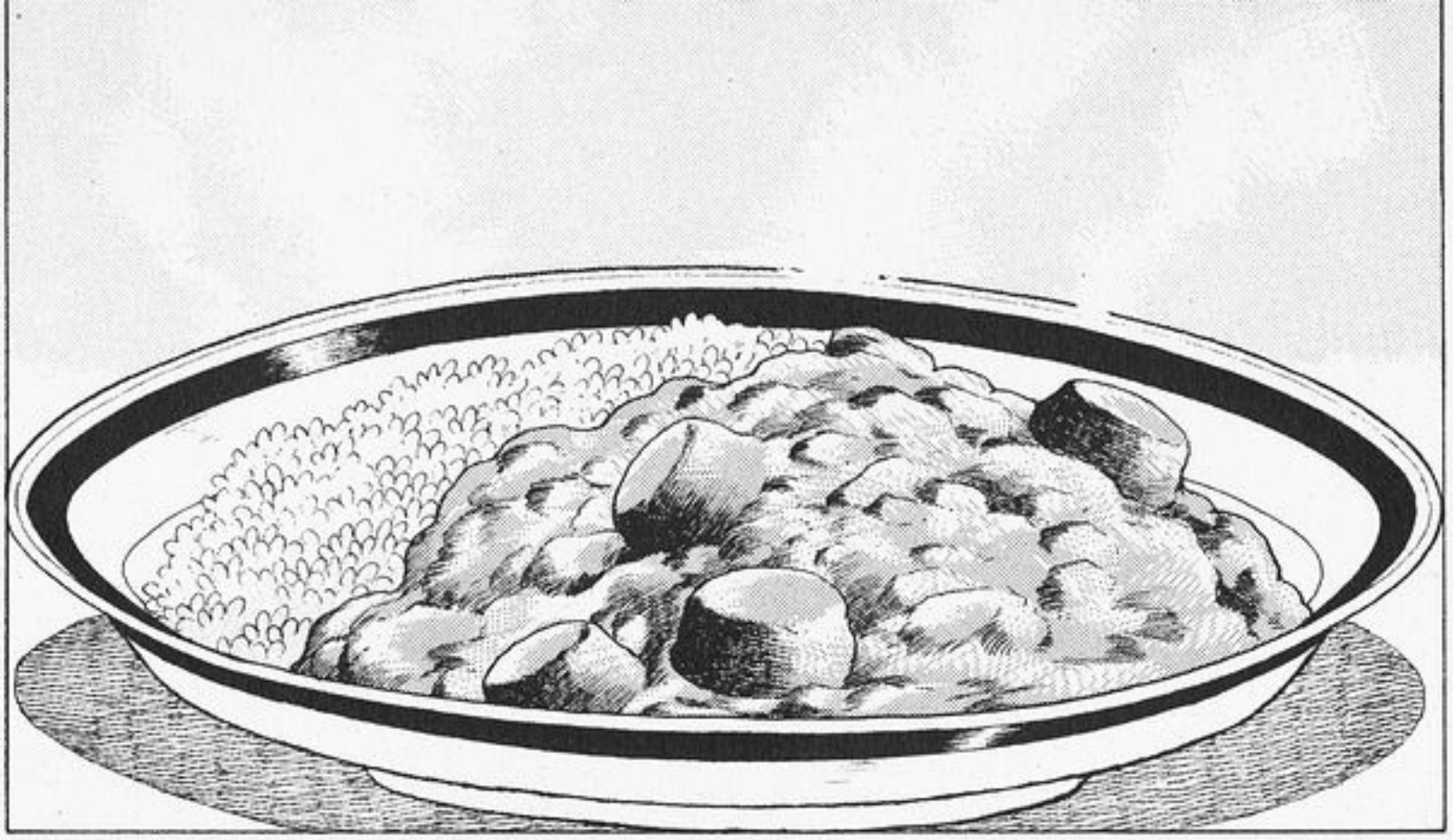

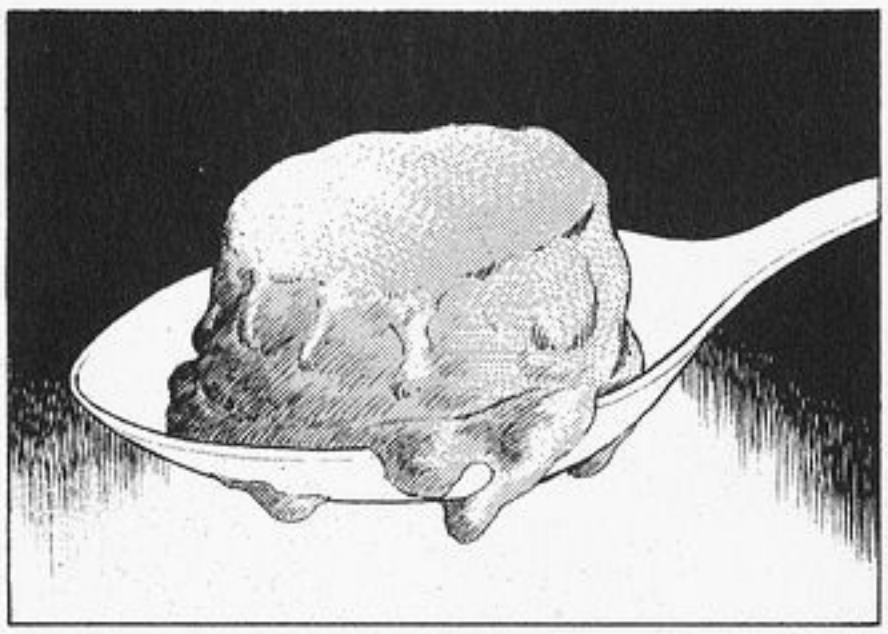

YOU'VE GONE AND USED SOME BIZARRE INGREDIENTS IN A DESPERATE ATTEMPT!
WHAT ON EARTH IS THIS?!

IT'S REMINISCENT OF CONSOMME SOUP, ELEGANT YET ROBUST IN ITS ESSENCE... AH...
HOW ABOUT THIS, HUH?! A SILKY SMOOTH TEXTURE, BURSTING WITH RICH DEPTH OF FLAVOR...
WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THIS...!?

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WHAT!? BONE MARROW!?

IT'S BEEF BONE MARROW.

INDEED, IT'S THE MARROW.

WHAT WE HAVE AFTER A BIT MORE SIMMERING IS THIS DELIGHTFUL CREATION.

HMM... SO THIS IS BONE MARROW CURRY...

THEN, WE BLEND IT WITH THE ROUX AND LET IT SIMMER EVEN LONGER.

CUT THE BEEF SHANK OR FEMUR INTO CHUNKS THIS SIZE, AND LET IT STEW WITH VEGETABLES AND SPICES.

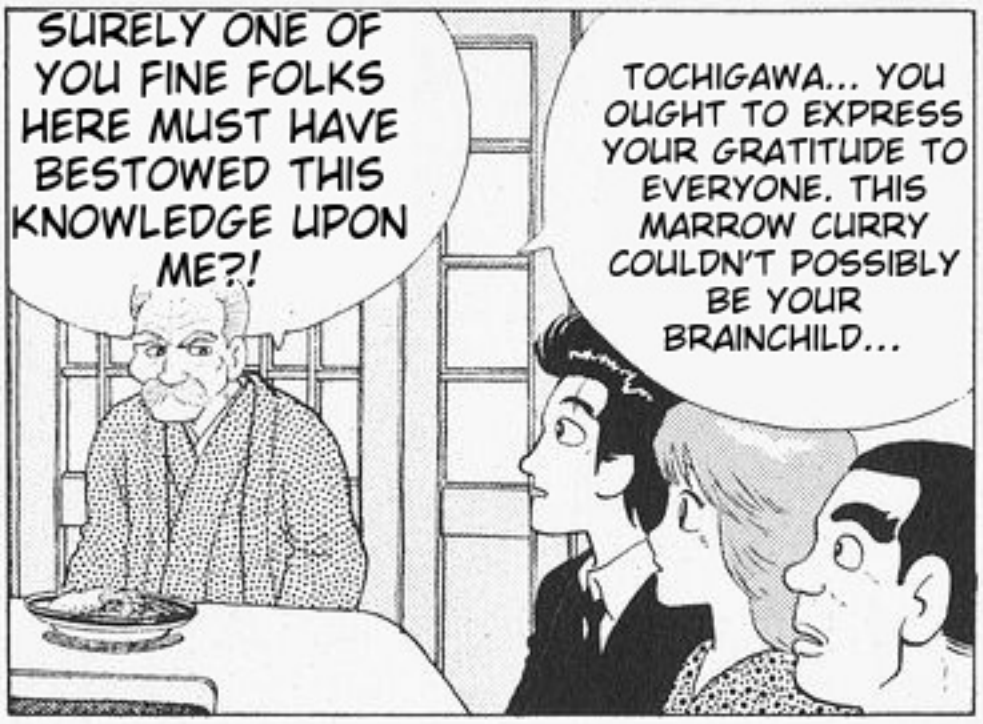
BEFORE WE FINISH, WE SMOOTHLY PUSH OUT JUST THE MARROW FROM THE BONES.

18

YET, THIS BONE MARROW REMARKABLY EMBRACES THE AROMATIC RICHNESS OF CURRY, ELEVATING THE ENTIRE FLAVOR PROFILE TO A LUSCIOUS NEW HEIGHT.

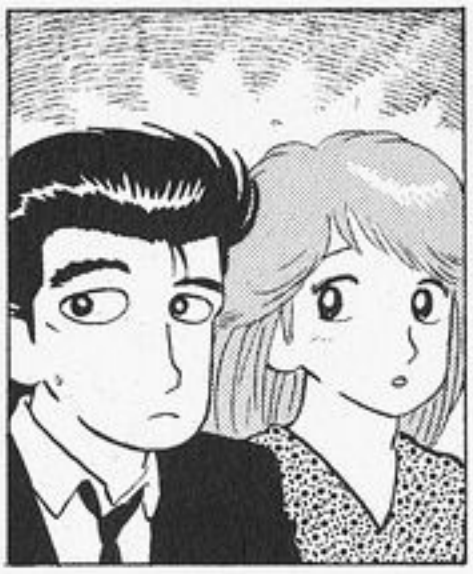
AH, THE FRAGRANCE HAS TAKEN ON AN EVEN MORE ENTICING TOASTINESS.

DELICIOUS!

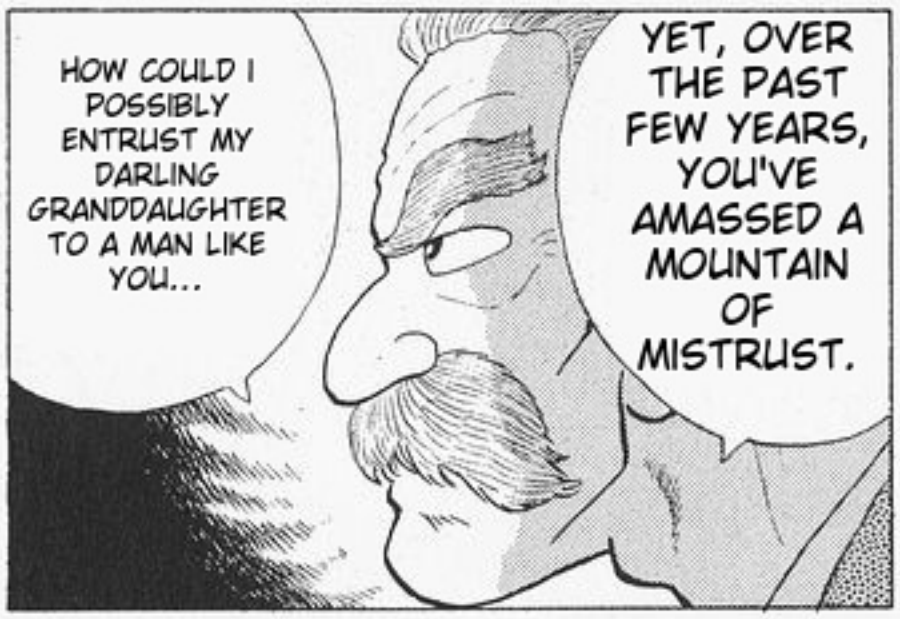

SURELY ONE OF YOU FINE FOLKS HERE MUST HAVE BESTOWED THIS KNOWLEDGE UPON ME?!
TOCHIGAWA... YOU OUGHT TO EXPRESS YOUR GRATITUDE TO EVERYONE. THIS MARROW CURRY COULDN'T POSSIBLY BE YOUR BRAINCHILD...

.....

OH, NOW, NOW...
GRANDPA, I LOVE KITAO! I'M NOT LEAVING HIM!



Y-YES... I WAS TAUGHT THIS...


HOW COULD I POSSIBLY ENTRUST MY DARLING GRANDDAUGHTER TO A MAN LIKE YOU...
YET, OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS, YOU'VE AMASSED A MOUNTAIN OF MISTRUST.

WHOEVER SHARED THE SECRET TO CRAFTING SUCH EXQUISITE CURRY MUST TRULY HAVE FAITH IN YOU, TOCHIGAWA.
FOR A HUMAN, THE MOST VITAL TREASURE IS THE TRUST OF OTHERS.

TEAM UP WITH ASAE, AND GIVE IT YOUR ALL TO EARN EVEN MORE TRUST!!

AND HERE'S THIS MARROW CURRY! CONSIDER THIS FLAVOR A TESTAMENT TO YOUR GROWING ABILITY TO RESPOND TO OTHERS' TRUST.

SENSEI!

GRANDPA!

20

THAT WAS A STUNNING VICTORY AGAINST OLD TORAZAWA!

WE DID IT!

第7話 熱烈小籠包

TODAY, OUR BELOVED TOZAI NEWSPAPER CULTURAL DEPARTMENT'S BASEBALL TEAM IS SQUARING OFF AGAINST THE TEITO NEWSPAPER ARTS DEPARTMENT TEAM!

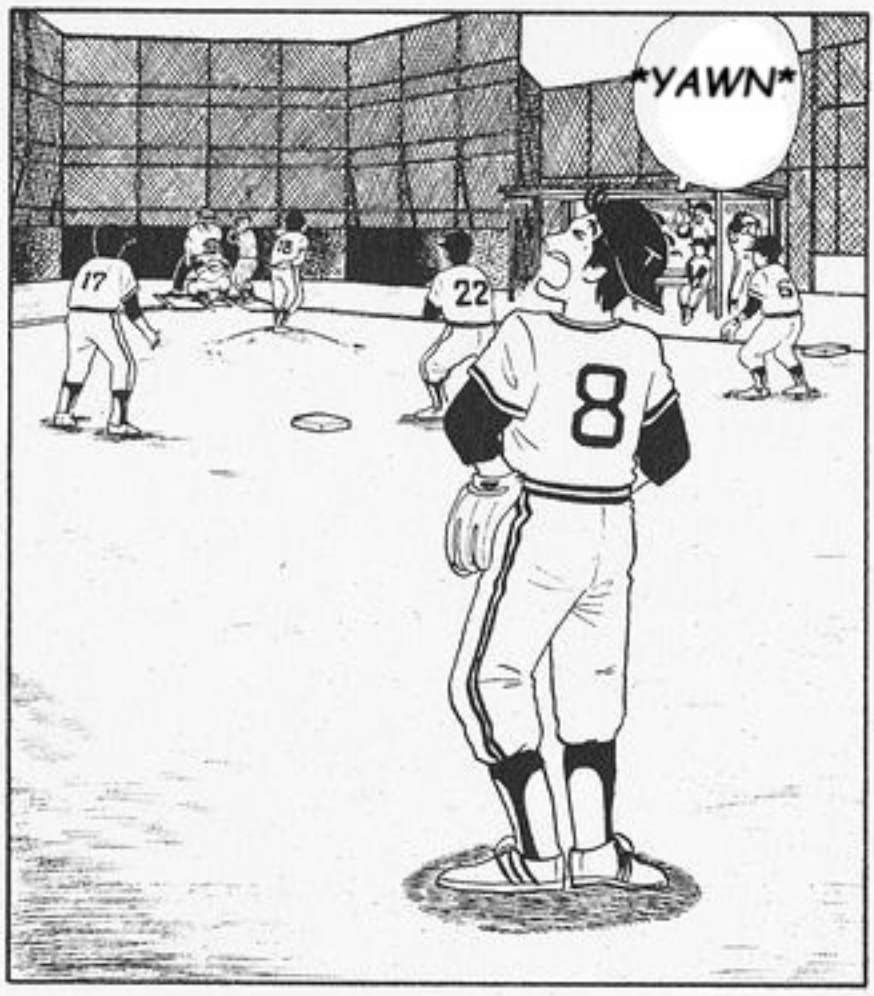
IT'S JUST A BASEBALL GAME, BUT THE EXCITEMENT RUNS HIGH...

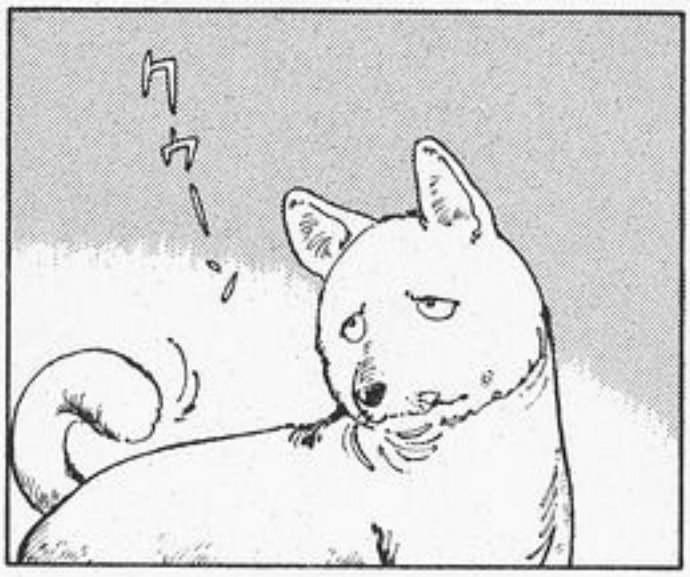
	一	二	三	四	五	六	七	八	九
帝都	0	2	2	0					
東西	0	0	3	2					

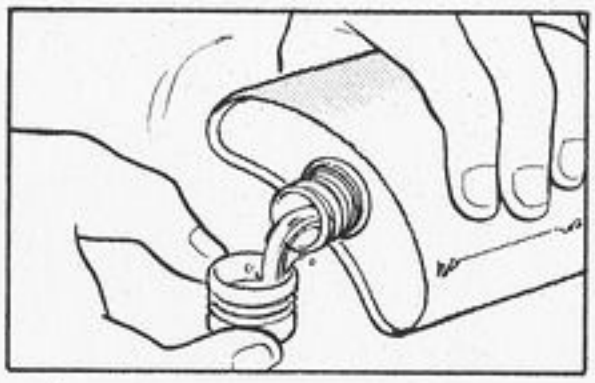
THE TOZAI NEWSPAPER AND THE TEITO NEWSPAPER ARE RIVALS IN THE RACE FOR THE HIGHEST CIRCULATION IN JAPAN, SO-

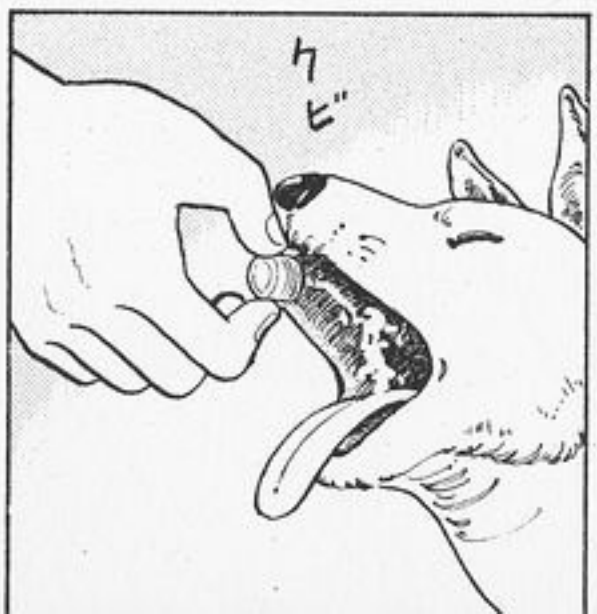
2

DELICIOUSNESS GALORE 12!









TL NOTE: THIS SHOULDN'T NEED TO BE SAID, BUT PLEASE, DON'T EVER GIVE ALCOHOL TO A DOG...

NO WAY, NO MORE FOR YOU, PUP...

WHAT DID YOU SAY?! YOU WANT MORE?!

YOU REALLY DRANK THAT AWAMORI!

OH MY, WHAT A DOG!

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HEY, YOU MUTT! THAT'S MINE!

YOU MADE ME SPILL MY BOOZE!

WHOA, WHOA!

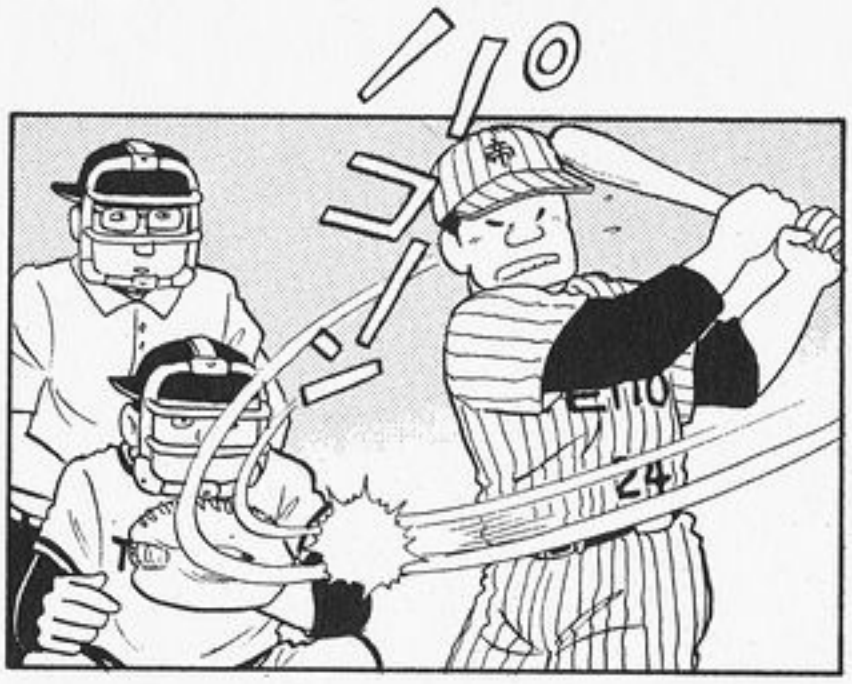
4

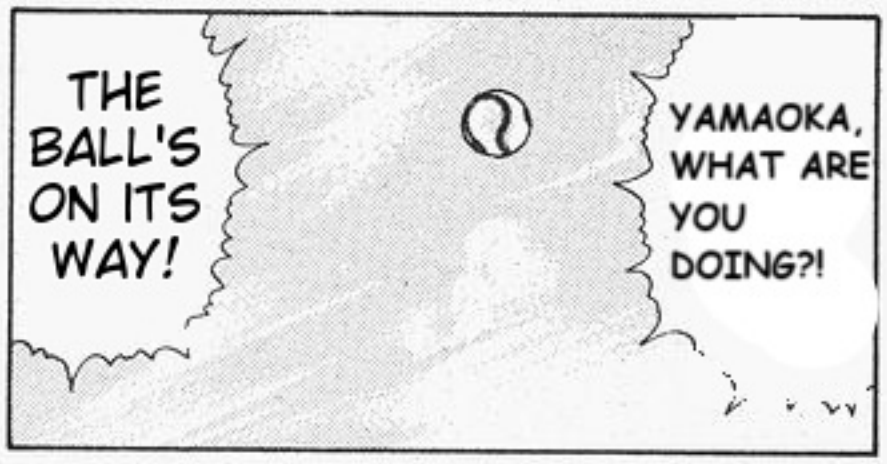
OH NO, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

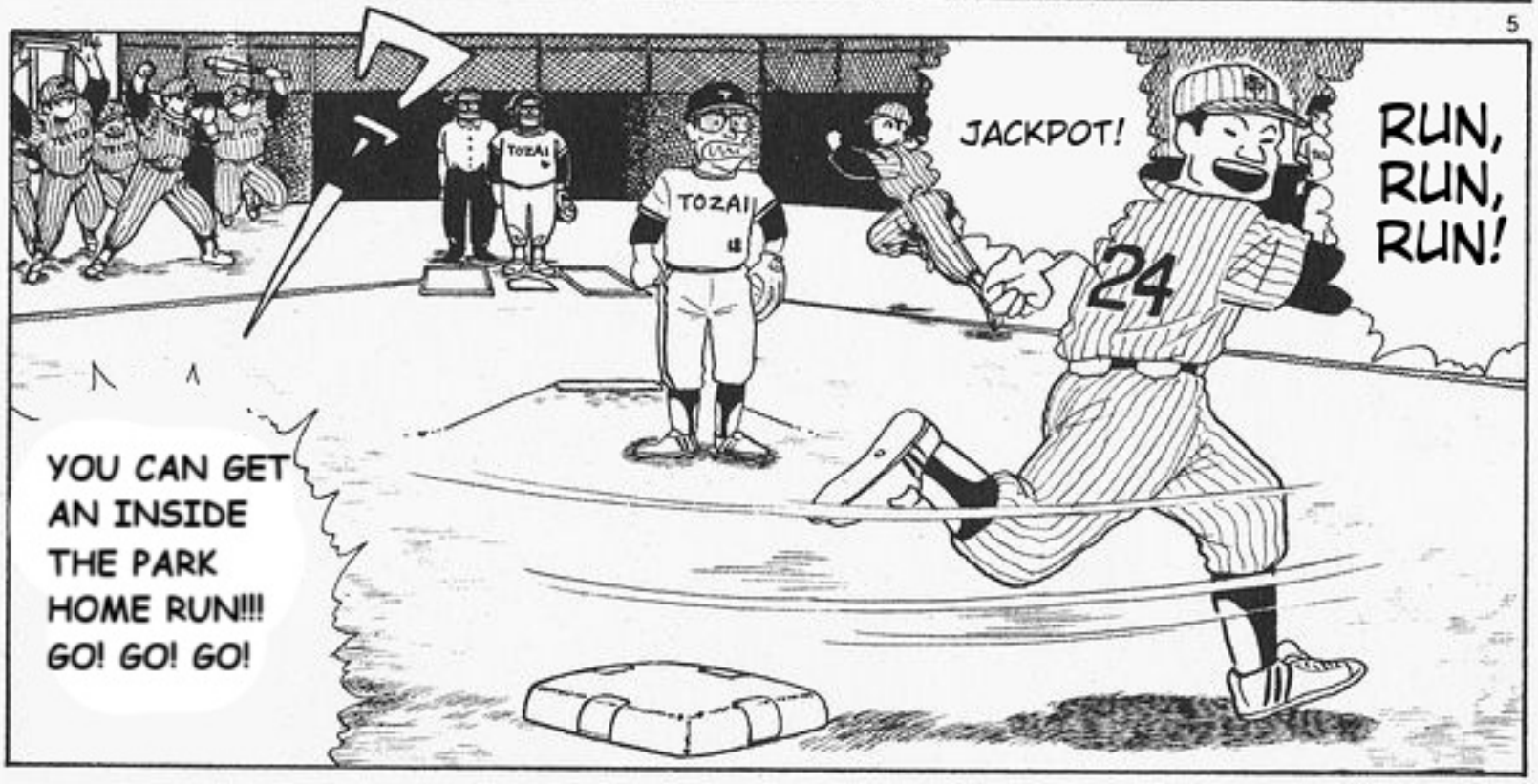
LOOK AT YAMAOKA-SAN!!!

IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE BATTLING OVER SOMETHING...

DELICIOUSNESS GALORE 12!

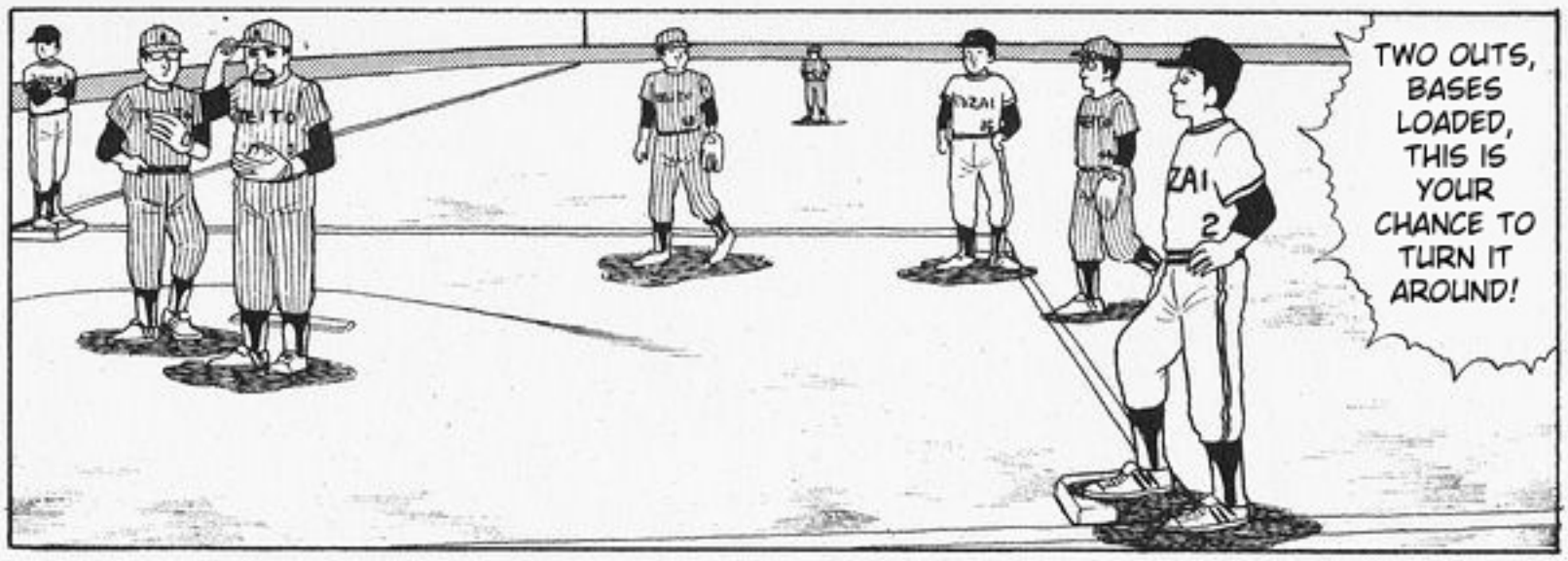






THAT WAS AN EASY OUT AND YOU BLEW IT!!! NOW THEY HAVE A 6-5 LEAD THANKS TO YOU!!!
YAMAOKA, JUST WAIT AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU COST US THIS GAME!
TOZAI
帝都 0 2 2 0 2
東西 0 0 3 2
UGH! YOU'RE THE WORST!
IF YOU'RE LAZY AT WORK, THEN YOU'RE LAZY AT BASEBALL TOO!!
TCH...
TOZAI
STRIKE THREE!!!
ALRIGHT, YAMAOKA, YOU'RE ON DECK.
OH, UM...

DELICIOUSNESS GALORE 12!



REMEMBER WHAT I TOLD YOU TO DO!!!

YAMAOKA-SAN, GIVE IT YOUR ALL!

I WON'T LET MYSELF GET HIT BY A PITCH!

THIS IS NO LAUGHING MATTER!

THE POOR THING LOOKS DRUNK!

OH LOOK, THAT DOG IS STUMBLING AROUND...

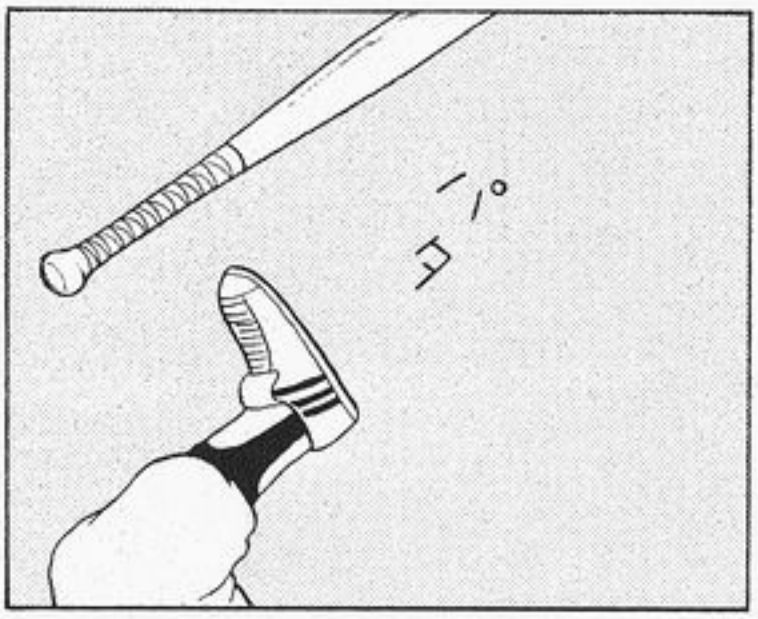
8

AH!

!

WHOA, DON'T COME NEAR ME!

TOZ
8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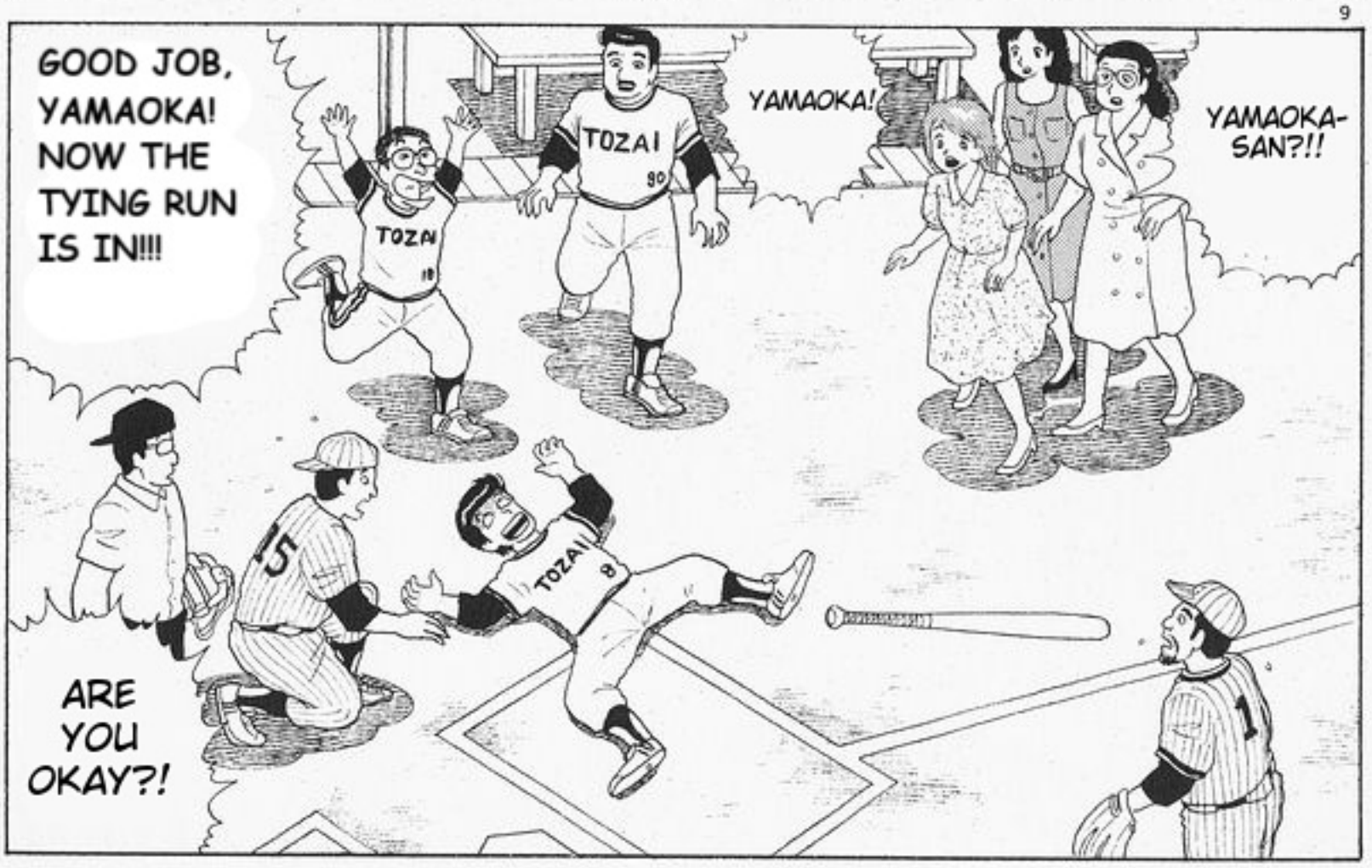
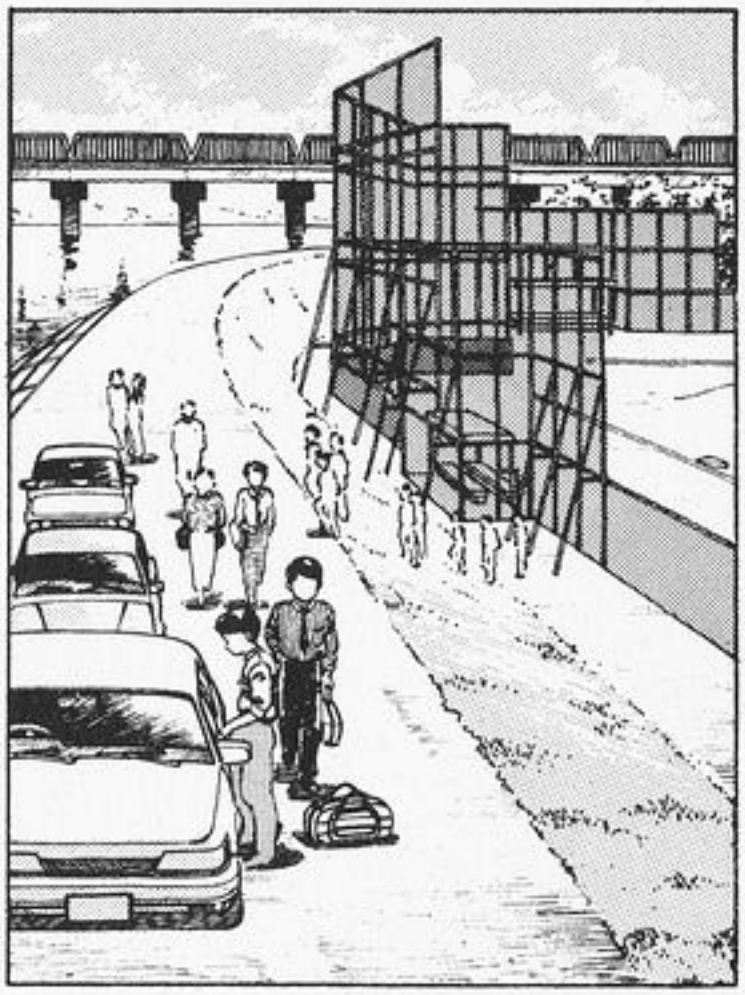

GOOD JOB, YAMAOKA! NOW THE TYING RUN IS IN!!!
TOZAI
TOZAI
TOZAI
YAMAOKA!
YAMAOKA-SAN?!!
ARE YOU OKAY?!

THANKS TO YAMAOKA'S WILD PITCH, WE MANAGED TO AVOID DEFEAT- WHAT A STROKE OF LUCK!

IN THE END, IT ENDED IN A TIE, BUT STILL...

IT WASN'T A WILD PITCH!!!



UGH.

WELL, AT LEAST IT ALL TURNED OUT ALRIGHT IN THE END!

THE VICE-CAPTAIN WOULD HAVE BEEN ON OUR BACKS FOREVER, AND IT WOULD HAVE BEEN UNBEARABLE!

JUST IMAGINE IF WE HAD LOST;

10

I'M TSUKIMORI.

I'M HIRAMOTO, THE ASSISTANT HEAD OF TEITO ARTS DEPARTMENT.

AH, I TRULY APOLOGIZE FOR EARLIER!

DELICIOUSNESS GALORE 12!

WHAT EXACTLY IS A SOUP DUMPLING?

IT'S JUST A SMALLER VERSION OF A MEAT BUN!

IT'S THE PERFECT BITE-SIZED DELIGHT!

FIRST, LET'S SAVOR THIS ONE.

THIS PLACE HAS THE MOST SCRUMPTIOUS SOUP DUMPLINGS, HANDS DOWN!

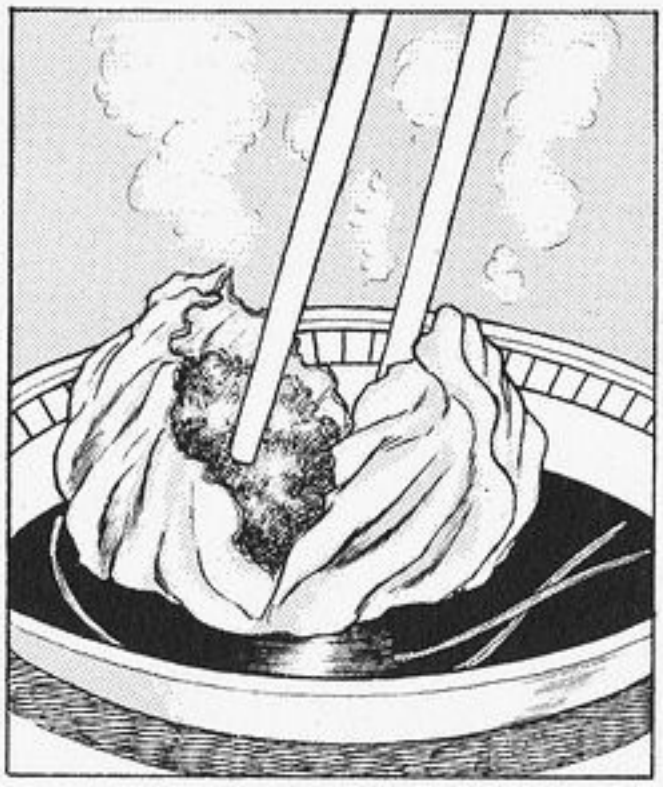
ALRIGHT, LET'S DIG IN!

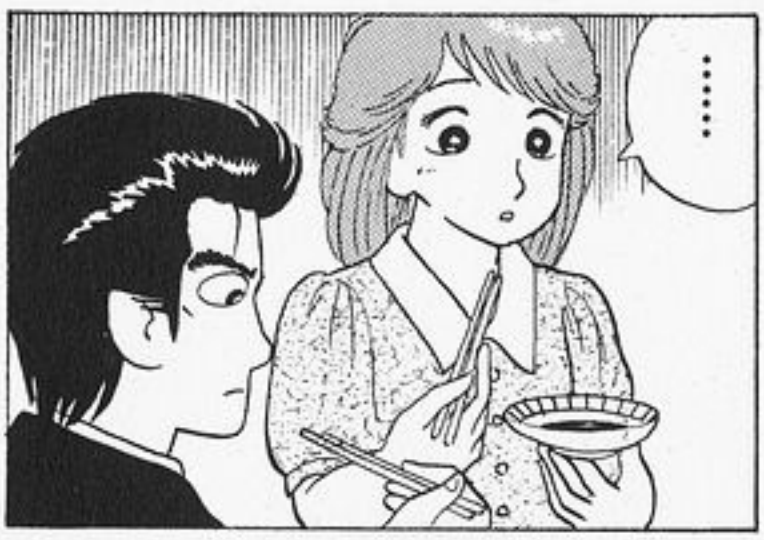
OH, HERE THEY COME!

WELL, A SOUP DUMPLING IS LIKE A MEAT BUN, BUT...

HUH... A MEAT BUN?

DELICIOUSNESS GALORE 12!





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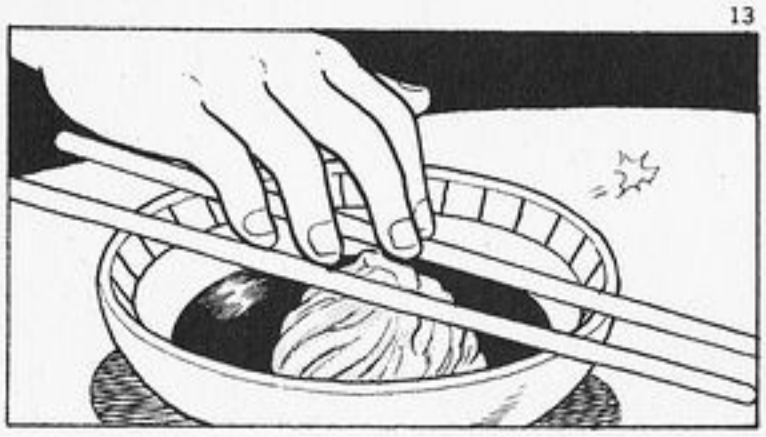


YOU DARE CALL THIS SOUP DUMPLING TRASH?!

WHAT?! YOU CALL THIS TRASH?!

YAMAOKA-SAN, STOP IT!

TO SERVE SOMETHING LIKE THIS AND CALL IT A SOUP DUMPLING FOR CUSTOMERS...

THIS ISN'T A SOUP DUMPLING, IT'S JUST A HEAP OF TRASH!

WHAT A DIRTY TRICK! I WENT OUT OF MY WAY TO INVITE YOU TO BOND, AND THIS IS HOW YOU REPAY ME!

THE FACT THAT YOUR NEWSPAPER IS LOSING IN CIRCULATION TO OURS ADDS A BIT OF SALT TO THE WOUNDS!

I'M NOT HOLDING A GRUDGE AT ALL!

AHA! I GET IT! YOU'RE HOLDING A GRUDGE BECAUSE I HIT YOU WITH A PITCH, AND NOW YOU'RE RESORTING TO THIS HARASSMENT?!

14

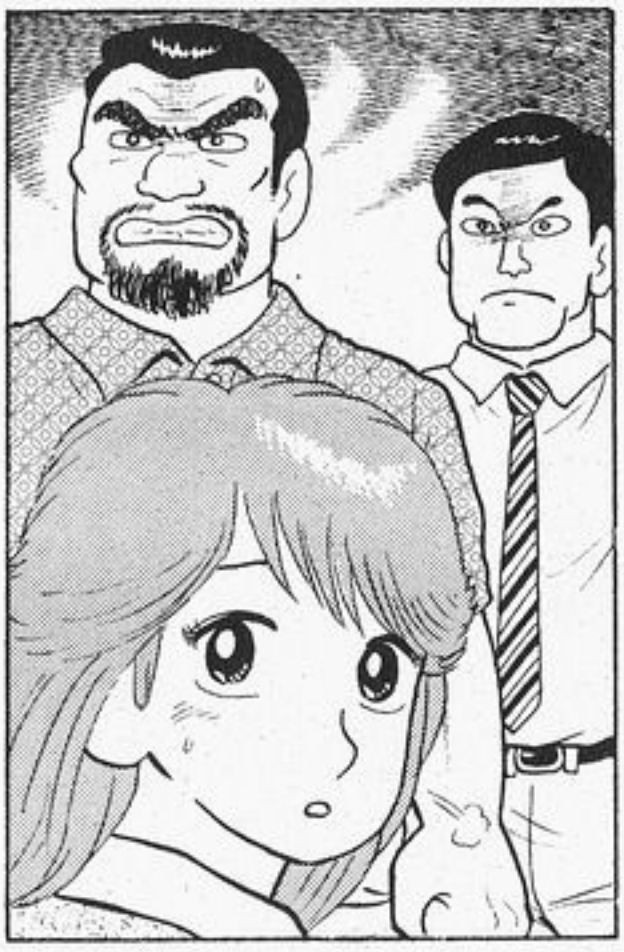
I'M TREATING YOU TO THE REAL DEAL OF SOUP DUMPLINGS.

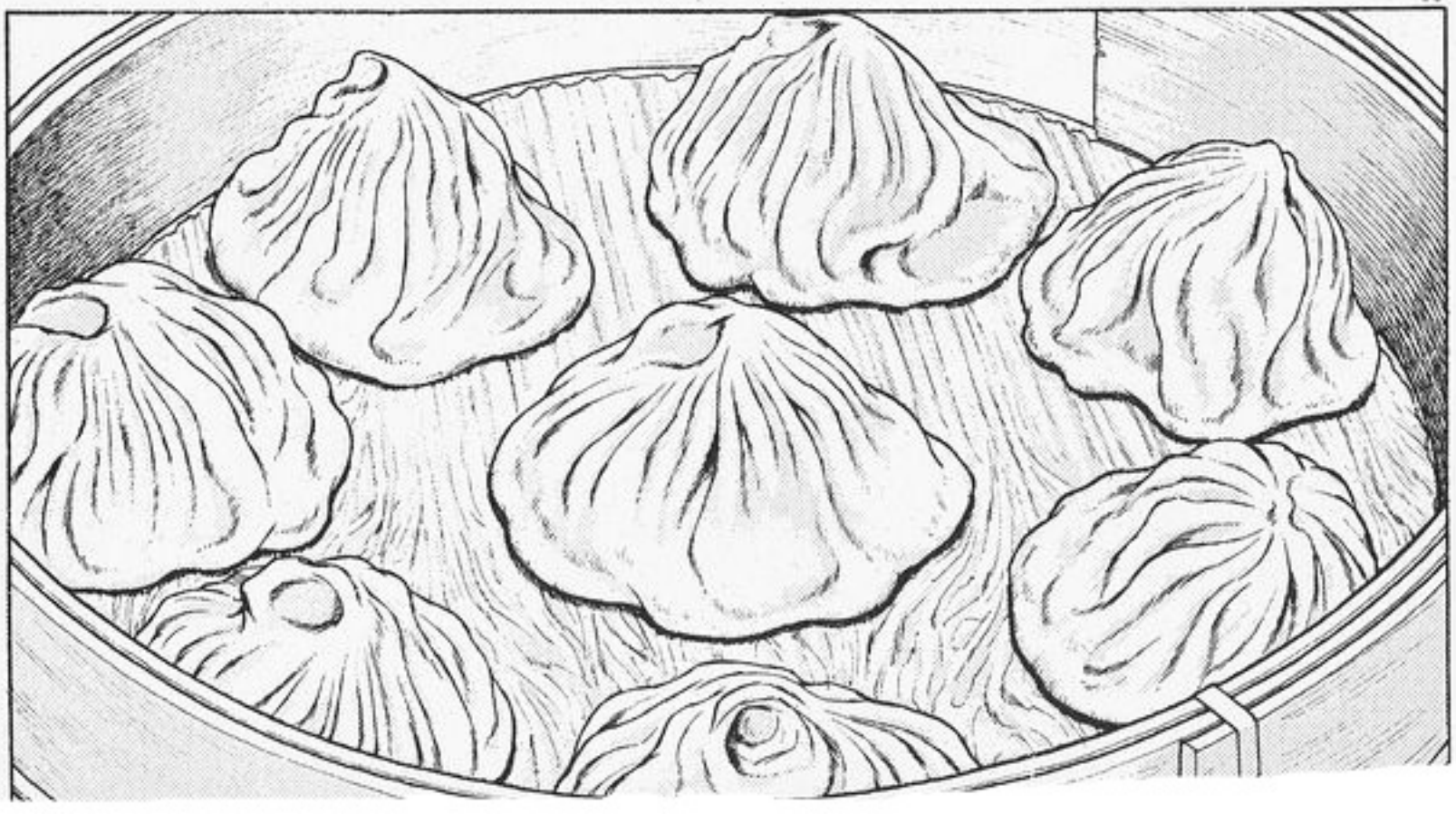
PLEASE, COME WITH ME!

WHY DOES IT ALWAYS HAVE TO BE LIKE THIS?!

UGH...!

DELICIOUSNESS GALORE 12!





ISN'T THAT THE TRUTH...?
REALLY NOW... OH MY...
THEY LOOK JUST LIKE THOSE DUMPLINGS WE HAD BEFORE!
WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE, I ASK?!
IT'S SO SLOSHY!
OH? THERE'S LIQUID INSIDE!

16

IF IT DOESN'T HAVE SOUP, IT'S NOT A SOUP DUMPLING.
THE SOUP-FILLED CENTER IS WHAT MAKES A SOUP DUMPLING SPECIAL.
UGH...
INSIDE THIS BAOZI, THERE'S SOUP WAITING TO BE SAVORED.
THIS IS NOT A MEAT BUN; IT'S CALLED BAOZI.
THE SOUP DUMPLINGS FROM THAT PLACE EARLIER DIDN'T HAVE ANY SOUP INSIDE THEM!
SOUP?!

DELICIOUSNESS GALORE 12!

AS SOON AS YOU BITE, THE HOT SOUP BURSTS OUT, SO YOU INHALE THROUGH YOUR MOUTH...

BLOW AND ROLL IT AROUND IN YOUR MOUTH WHILE YOU EAT.

NOW, I'LL TIP IT UPSIDE DOWN SO THE POINTED END HITS MY TONGUE FIRST AND TAKE A BITE...

THE BEST WAY TO SAVOR IT IS TO POP THE WHOLE THING IN YOUR MOUTH.

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モグ…

FLIP IT OVER, THEN BLOW ON IT GENTLY TO COOL IT DOWN.

IT'S A WHOLE DIFFERENT WORLD COMPARED TO WHAT WE HAD AT THAT LAST PLACE!

MMM, MMM! WOW, THIS IS TASTY!

SEE?

THIS HEAT IS JUST INCREDIBLE!

OH, IT'S DELICIOUS! THE SOUP AND THE FILLING OF THE BUN BLEND TOGETHER SO TENDERLY...

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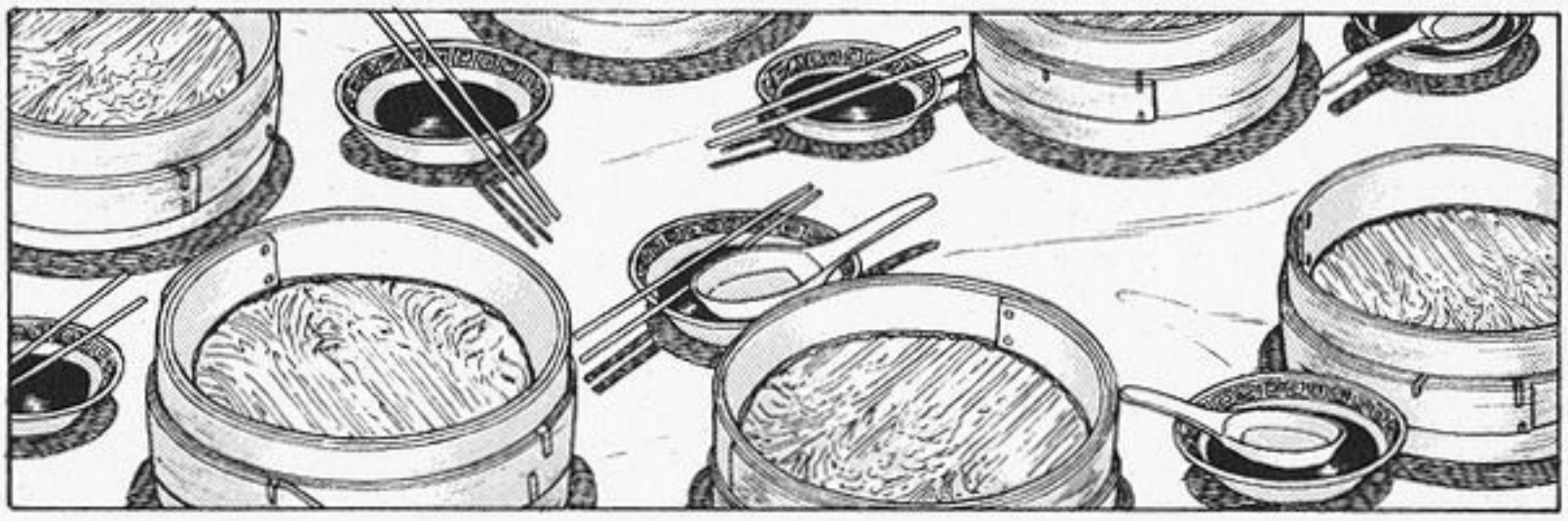


OH NO, HOW EMBARRASSING!
LOST IN THE MOMENT, WE'RE SLURPING AND SAVORING EVERY BITE...

I DEVOURED IT IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE!
PHEW...

SO THIS IS WHAT REAL SOUP DUMPLINGS TASTE LIKE?! UNBELIEVABLE!
NO WAY, YAMAOKA-SAN, I'M COMPLETELY STUMPED!

AH! SO WHEN IT'S STEAMED, THE GELATIN MELTS AWAY, AND VOILÀ! YOU GET A STEAMING HOT DUMPLING FILLED WITH SOUP!

THIS SOUP IS PACKED WITH GELATIN. ONCE IT COOLS DOWN, IT TURNS INTO A DELIGHTFUL SOUP.
OF COURSE, THERE'S A TRICK TO IT!

BUT... HOW ON EARTH DID THEY GET THE SOUP INSIDE THE DUMPLING IN THE FIRST PLACE...?

DELICIOUSNESS GALORE 12!

THIS MEANS THAT WHEN YOU THAW THOSE DUMPLINGS THAT WERE ONCE FROZEN, COUNTLESS TINY GAPS OPEN UP INSIDE, MAKING THE SKIN FRAGILE.

WHEN YOU FREEZE THEM, THE MOISTURE INSIDE THE SKIN TURNS TO ICE... WATER EXPANDS WHEN IT FREEZES AND RETURNS TO ITS ORIGINAL STATE WHEN IT MELTS.

THE DUMPLING SKINS FROM THAT SHOP WERE ALL TORN APART. ALL THAT PRECIOUS SOUP JUST OOZED RIGHT OUT!

THOSE BIG CHAIN STORES FREEZE THEM RIGHT AT THE STAGE WHERE THEY WRAP THE JELLIED BROTH, MAKING A HUGE BATCH IN ADVANCE TO CUT CORNERS.

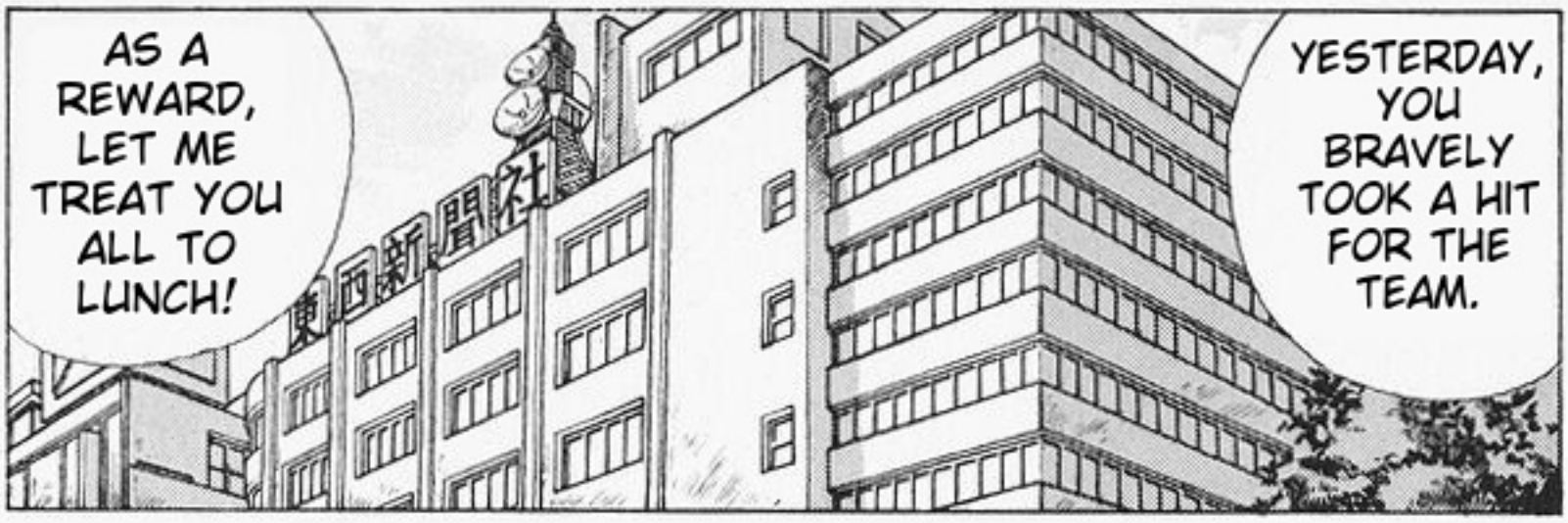
IT'S ONLY AUTHENTIC WHEN IT'S FILLED WITH SOUP!

NO, NO, I GET IT NOW.

HMM... SO THAT'S WHY YOU CALLED THAT PLACE DISHONEST.

IT BURNS YOUR MOUTH, AND THE SKIN ENDS UP ALL SOGGY!

BUT WHILE THE REAL DEAL IS DELICIOUS,

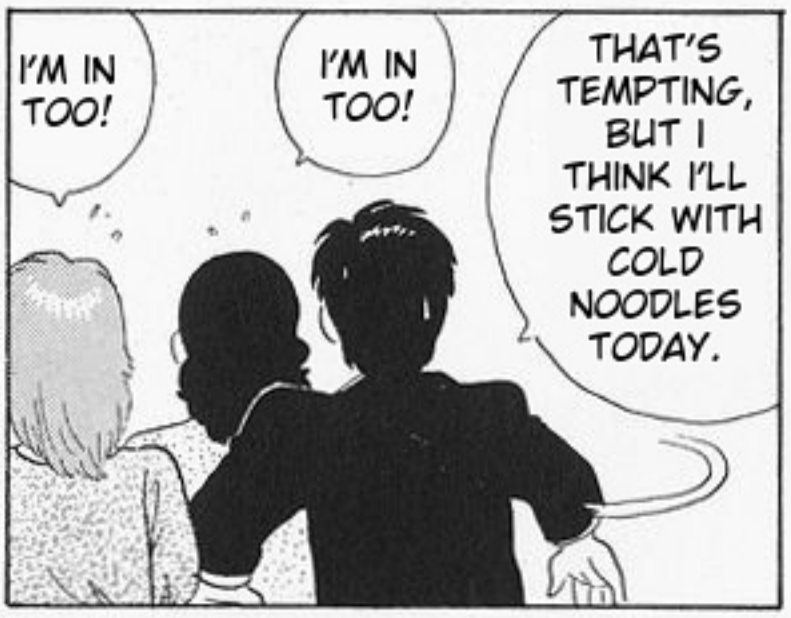

AS A REWARD, LET ME TREAT YOU ALL TO LUNCH!
東西新聞社
YESTERDAY, YOU BRAVELY TOOK A HIT FOR THE TEAM.

YOU DRIZZLE THE FIERY, SCORCHING HOT CURRY OVER STEAMING RICE AND DIG IN, BLOWING AND PANTING WITH EVERY BITE!
AH, THERE'S THIS INCREDIBLE CURRY PLACE!

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO TREAT US TO?
WOW! AS EXPECTED OF OUR GENEROUS VICE CAPTAIN!

WHAT ON EARTH IS HAPPENING HERE?!
WAIT A MINUTE! YOU ALL LOVE CURRY!!!

MY MOUTH IS ON FIRE...
BLOWING AND PANTING...?! SERIOUSLY?!


I'M IN TOO!
I'M IN TOO!
THAT'S TEMPTING, BUT I THINK I'LL STICK WITH COLD NOODLES TODAY.

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非常食

LOCATED IN THE STUNNING SUGADAIRA, NAGANO PREFECTURE!
IT'S BEEN AGES SINCE I HIT THE SLOPES!
ATOMIC
I'M HERE THANKS TO THE KIND INVITATION FROM NOBUKO MAYAMA, WHO USED TO WORK AT THE TOZAI NEWSPAPER, AND HER HUSBAND, KOICHI MAYAMA.

DELICIOUS!

HA! YOU'RE TERRIBLE AT IT!
WHOA, WHOA!
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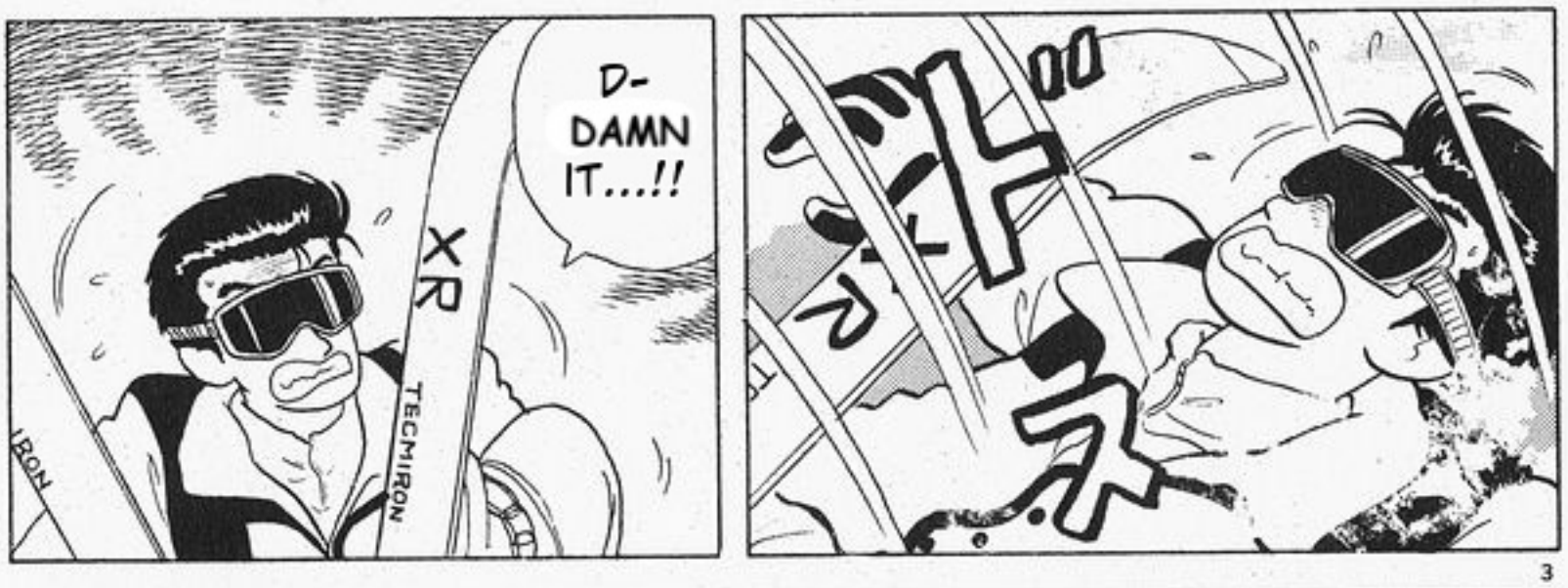
D- DAMN IT...!!
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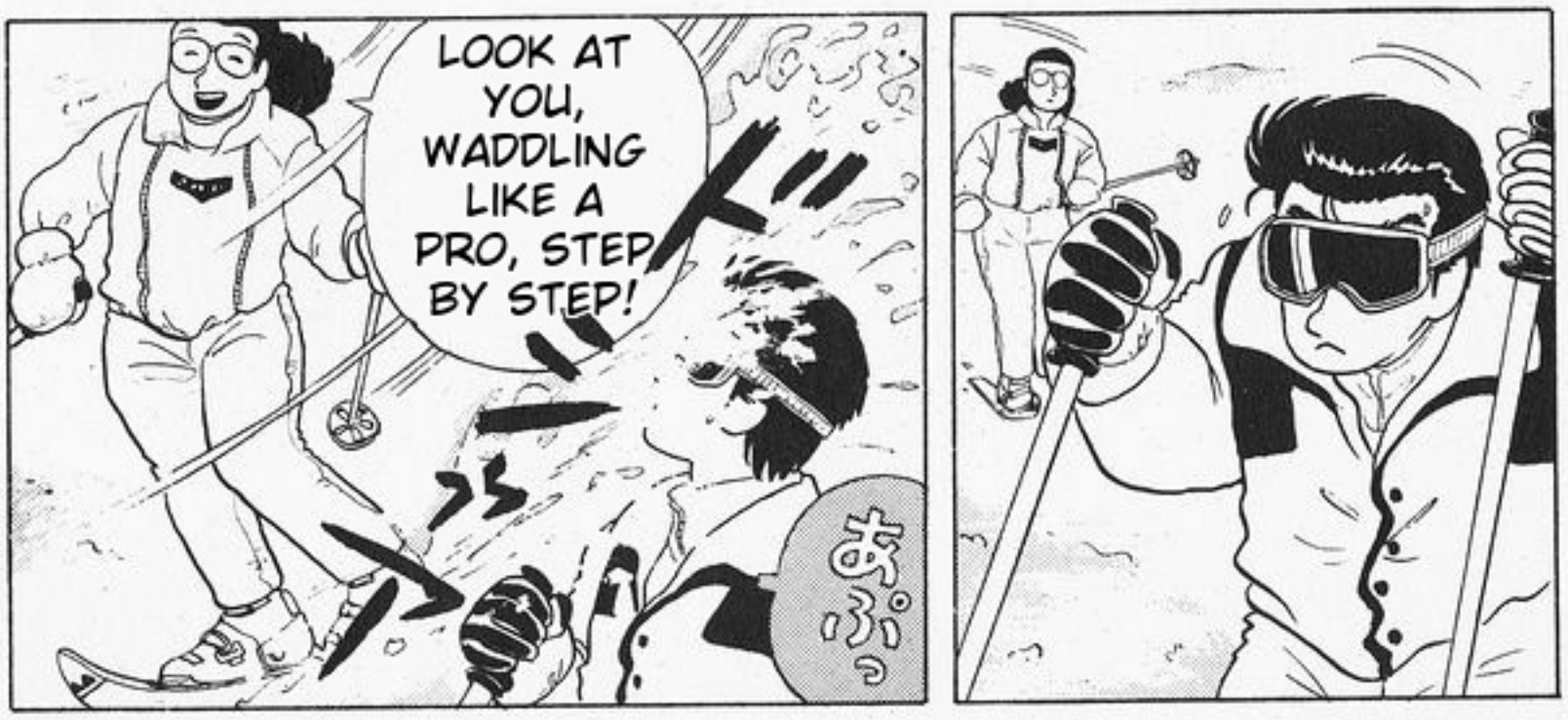

LOOK AT YOU, WADDLING LIKE A PRO, STEP BY STEP!

I HATE BOTH OF YOU!!!

YAMAOKA-SAN!!

I CAN SKI TOO, YOU KNOW!

DAMN IT!

GET OUT OF MY WAY!!

OH NO, THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING!!

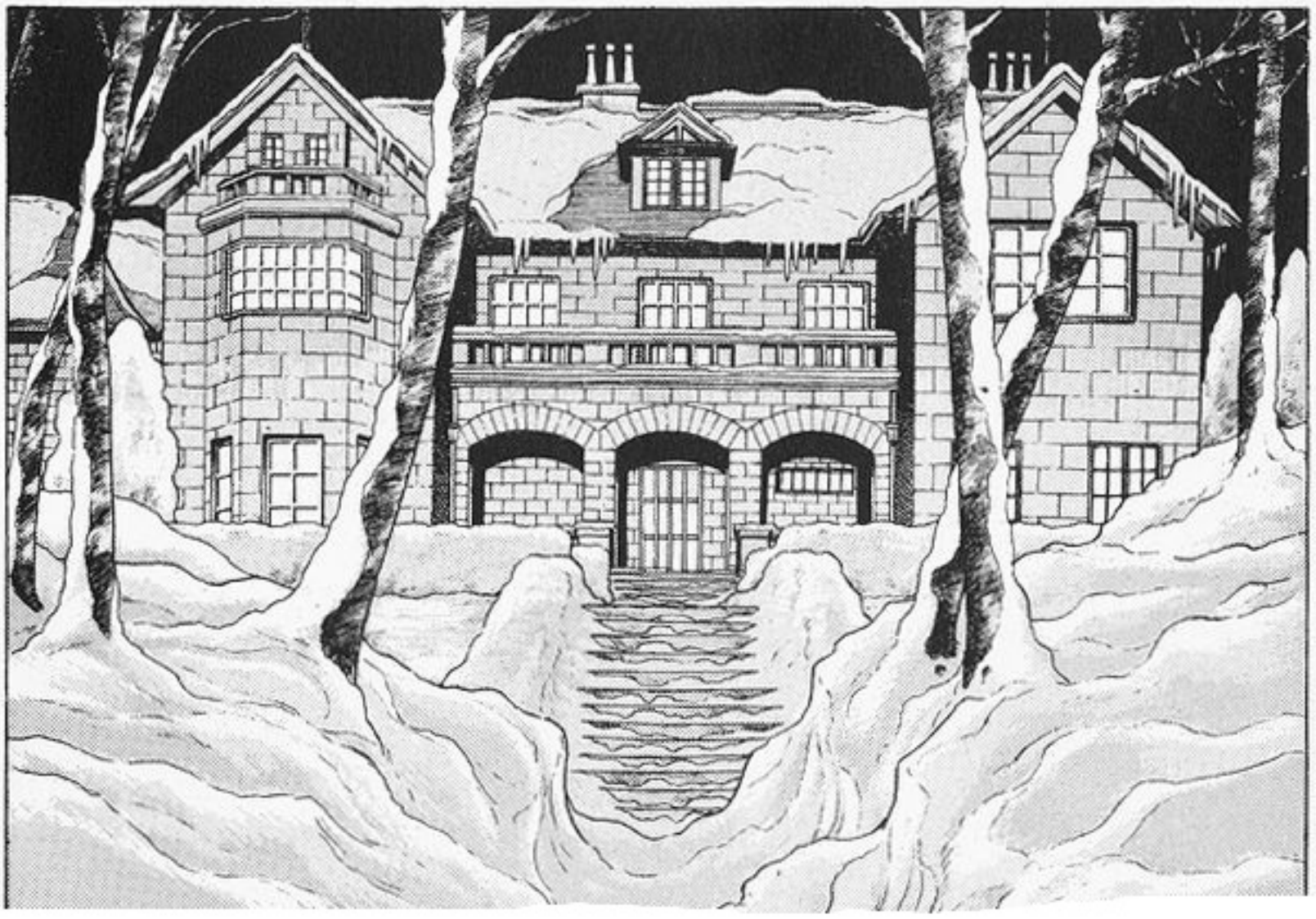
WHOA!

DELICIOUS!

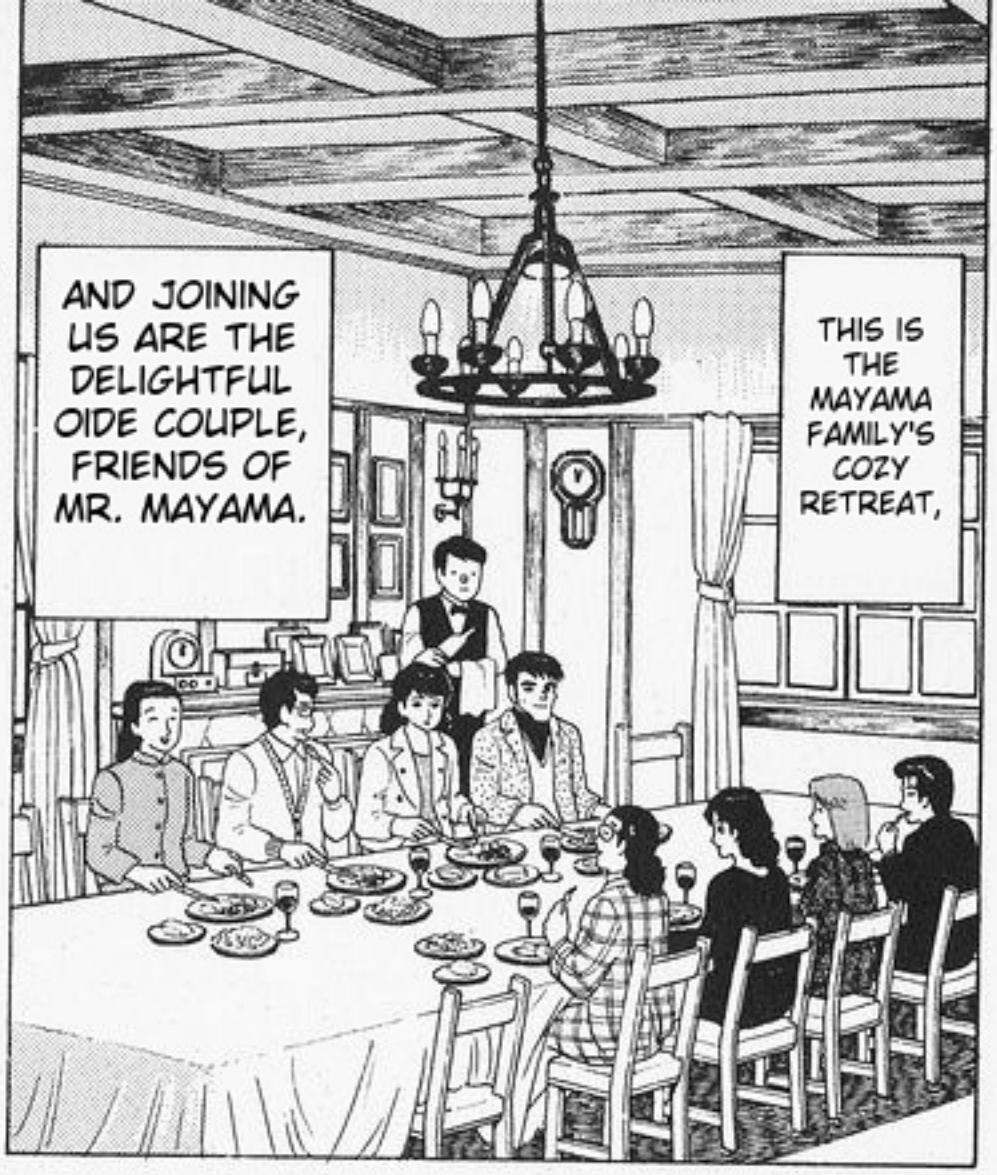
OH MY, YAMAOKA-SAN!!!
ARE YOU OKAY?!

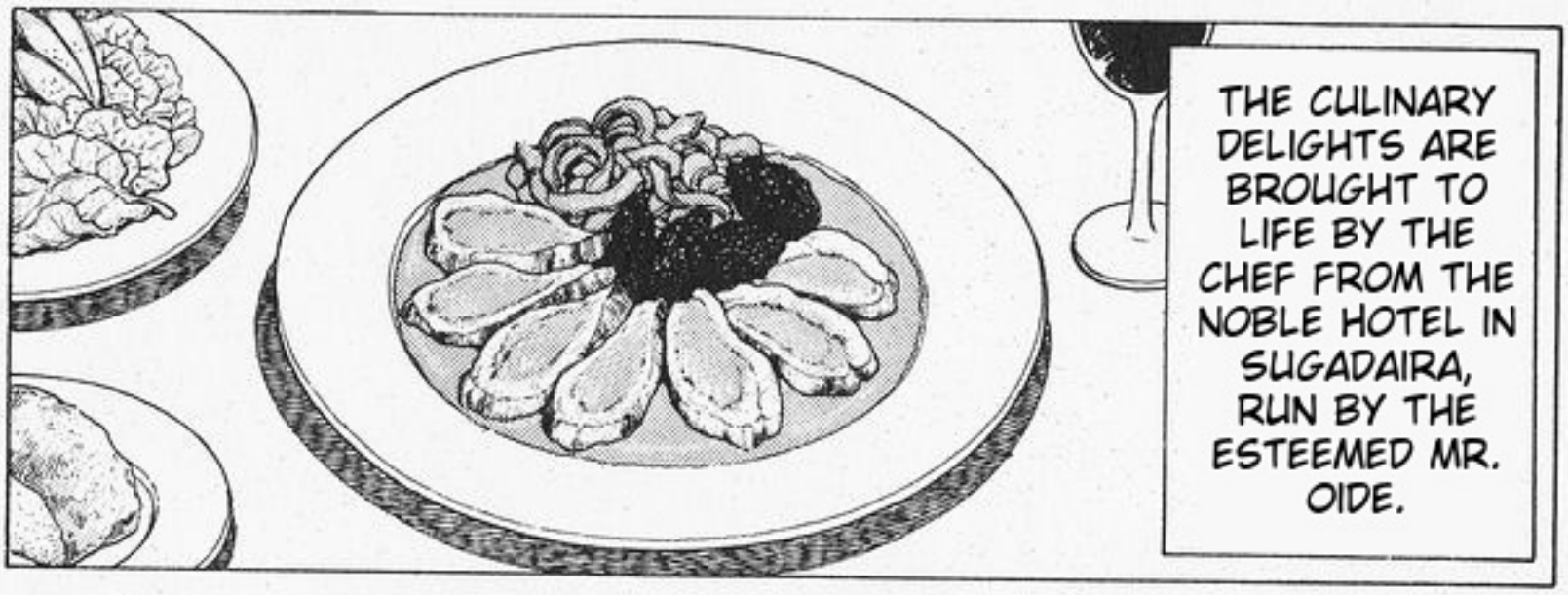
EEK!!

I ABSOLUTELY DESPISE SKIING!!
I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE! I REALLY DON'T WANT TO DO THIS!!



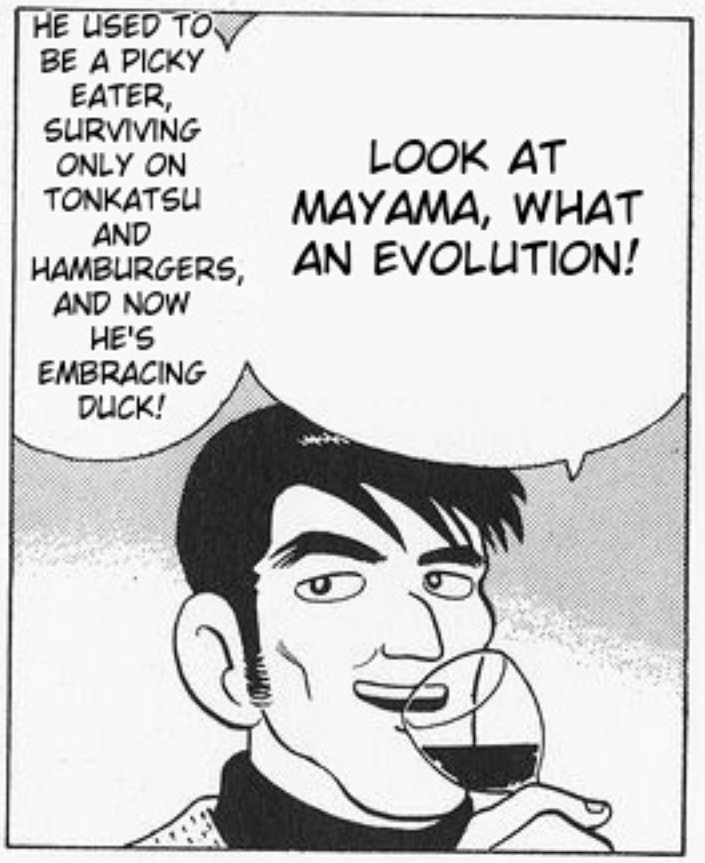
PRESIDENT OF HONDO CONSTRUCTION, SATORU OIDE (34 YEARS OLD).


AND JOINING US ARE THE DELIGHTFUL OIDE COUPLE, FRIENDS OF MR. MAYAMA.
THIS IS THE MAYAMA FAMILY'S COZY RETREAT,


THE CULINARY DELIGHTS ARE BROUGHT TO LIFE BY THE CHEF FROM THE NOBLE HOTEL IN SUGADAIRA, RUN BY THE ESTEEMED MR. OIDE.

IT'S ALL THANKS TO HIM THAT I FOUND THE SPARK TO CONQUER MY OWN PICKY PALATE.
ALL THANKS TO MR. YAMAOKA OVER THERE.

HE EMBRACES ALL SORTS OF NEW FOODS THANKS TO YAMAOKA!
NOW, I CAN PROUDLY SAY THERE'S NOTHING HE WON'T EAT!


HE USED TO BE A PICKY EATER, SURVIVING ONLY ON TONKATSU AND HAMBURGERS, AND NOW HE'S EMBRACING DUCK!
LOOK AT MAYAMA, WHAT AN EVOLUTION!

DELICIOUS!

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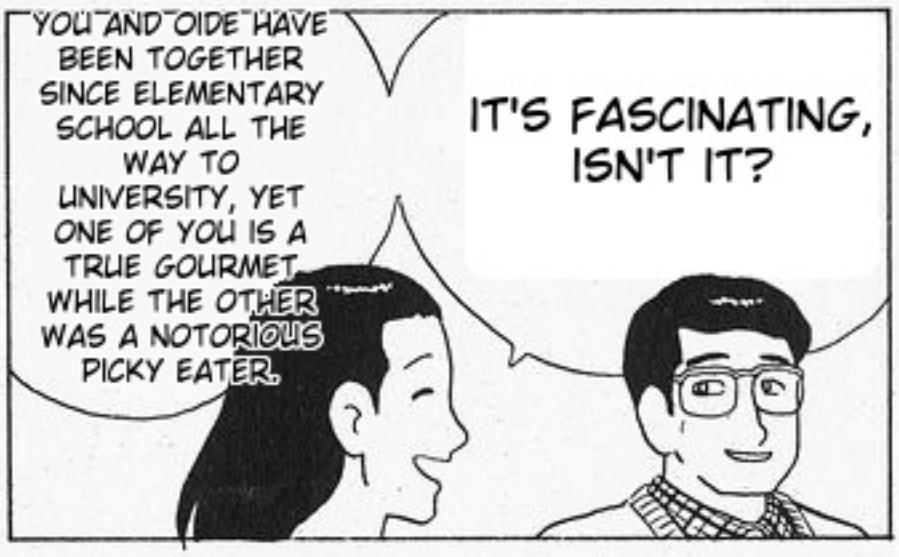
SHALL I TEACH YOU HOW TO SKI IN RETURN?
THAT'S QUITE AN IMPRESSIVE TRANSFORMATION!


YOU AND OIDE HAVE BEEN TOGETHER SINCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ALL THE WAY TO UNIVERSITY, YET ONE OF YOU IS A TRUE GOURMET WHILE THE OTHER WAS A NOTORIOUS PICKY EATER.
IT'S FASCINATING, ISN'T IT?

SINCE HE'S FINALLY OVERCOME HIS PICKY EATING, MAYAMA CAN NOW ENJOY THE FOOD THAT I SERVE.
EVERY DISH TODAY IS SOMETHING I PERSONALLY DIRECTED TO BE MADE.

IT'S MAJESTIC, LIKE A MANSION FIT FOR WESTERN ARISTOCRACY.
STILL, THIS VILLA OF YOURS, MAYAMA, IS ABSOLUTELY STUNNING.

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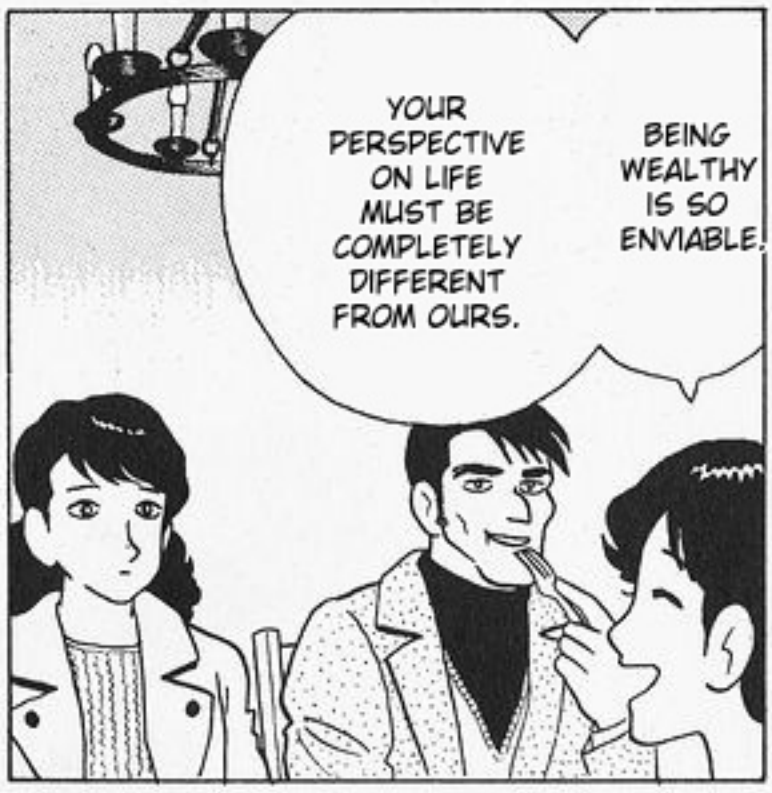
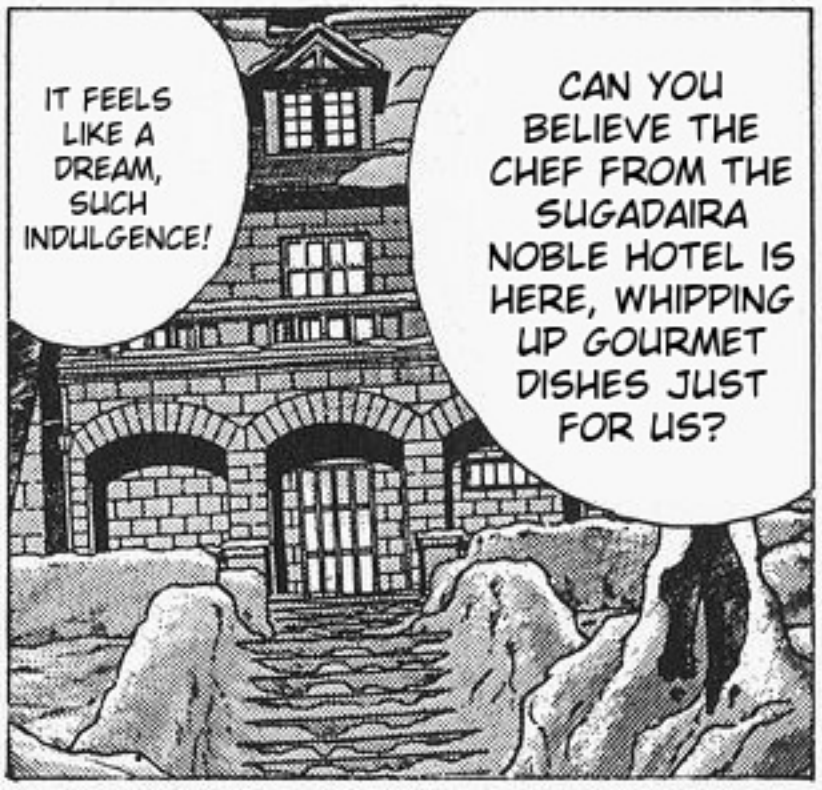

YOUR PERSPECTIVE ON LIFE MUST BE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM OURS.
BEING WEALTHY IS SO ENVIABLE.


IT FEELS LIKE A DREAM, SUCH INDULGENCE!
CAN YOU BELIEVE THE CHEF FROM THE SUGADAIRA NOBLE HOTEL IS HERE, WHIPPING UP GOURMET DISHES JUST FOR US?

IN TODAY'S WORLD, WITH MONEY, YOU CAN ACQUIRE ANYTHING— DELICIOUS FOOD, A MAGNIFICENT HOUSE, EVEN THE POWER TO MANIPULATE OTHERS...

THE WORST THING IS LOSING THAT SENSE OF GRATITUDE ALTOGETHER.

WHEN PEOPLE CAN HAVE ANYTHING THEY DESIRE AT THEIR FINGERTIPS, THEY OFTEN LOSE THEIR SENSE OF GRATITUDE.

NO, HAVING MONEY DOESN'T ALWAYS MEAN EVERYTHING IS WONDERFUL.

THAT'S NOT A SIGN OF APPRECIATION FOR MR. MAYAMA'S FRIENDSHIP...

YOU POOR THING. THE MAYAMA COUPLE GRACIOUSLY INVITED YOU TO THEIR VACATION HOME, AND YET YOU INSIST ON DRAGGING YOUR OWN CHEF FROM YOUR HOTEL.

IS THAT A JAB AT ME?!

WHAT IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

8

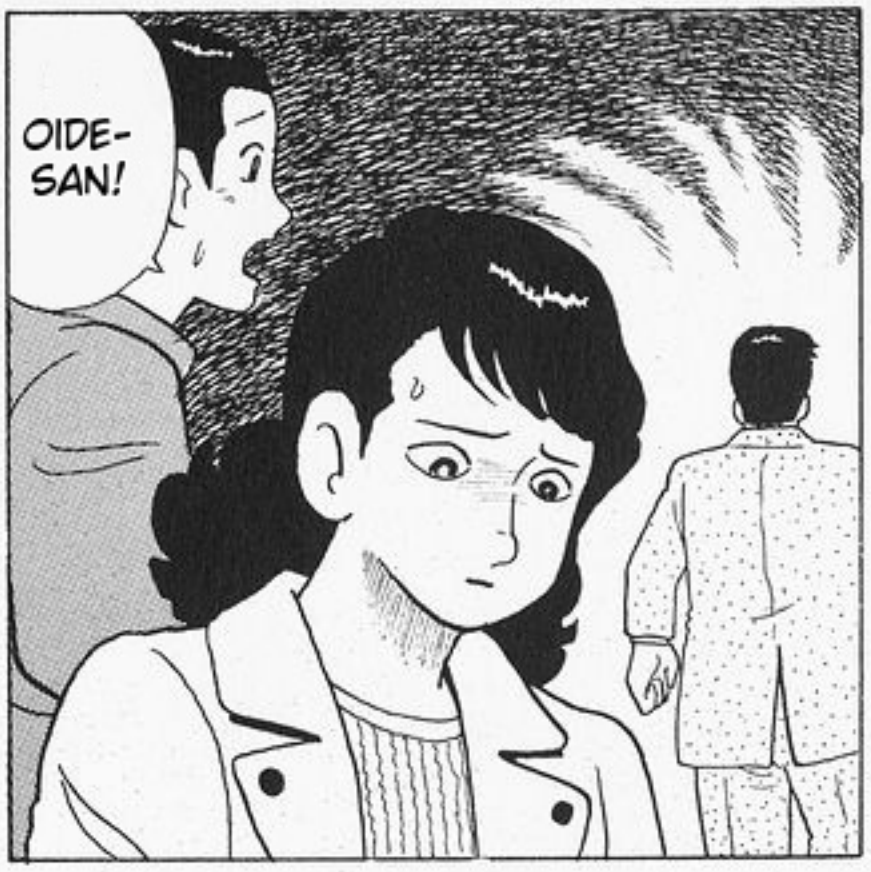
I'M SORRY,

BUT YOU'RE SO BUSY WITH WORK THAT YOU WOULDN'T LISTEN TO WHAT I HAVE TO SAY UNLESS IT WAS A MOMENT LIKE THIS...

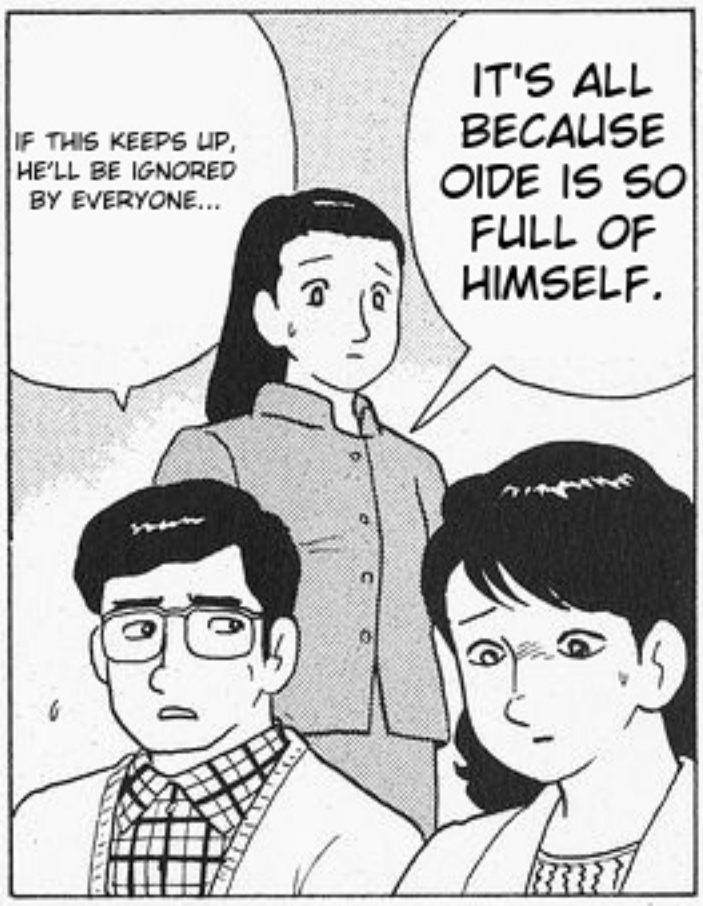
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?! HOW DARE YOU TRY TO BELITTLE ME IN FRONT OF SOMEONE I'VE JUST MET?!

IS IT JUST TO FLAUNT YOUR OWN POWER?

DELICIOUS!


OIDE-SAN!

UGH, THIS IS SO FRUSTRATING!


IF THIS KEEPS UP, HE'LL BE IGNORED BY EVERYONE...
IT'S ALL BECAUSE OIDE IS SO FULL OF HIMSELF.

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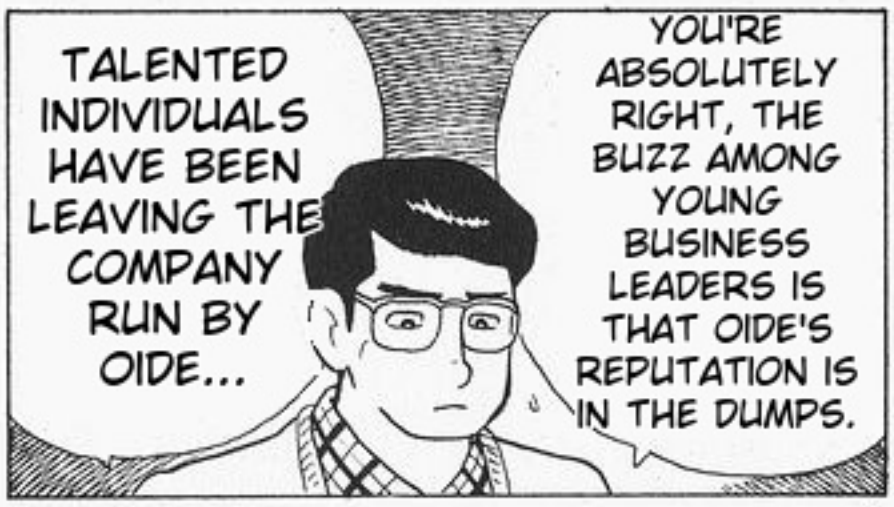
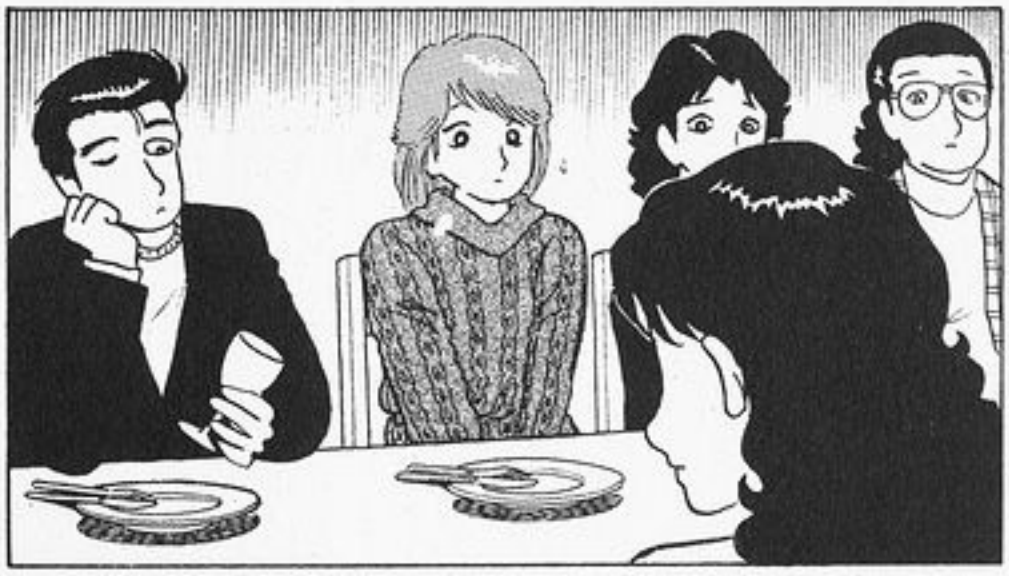

TALENTED INDIVIDUALS HAVE BEEN LEAVING THE COMPANY RUN BY OIDE...
YOU'RE ABSOLUTELY RIGHT, THE BUZZ AMONG YOUNG BUSINESS LEADERS IS THAT OIDE'S REPUTATION IS IN THE DUMPS.



BUT HE JUST REFUSES TO LISTEN TO ANYONE'S OPINIONS.

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WHAT A FEROCIOUS BLIZZARD! I CAN'T SEE A METER AHEAD!
THIS IS A REAL PICKLE; THERE'S NO WAY WE CAN GET HOME.

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SO, DOES THAT MEAN WE'RE STUCK HERE?

IT'S A TOTAL TRAFFIC NIGHTMARE! THE ROADS ARE COMPLETELY BLOCKED OFF!!
ガチャカ

10

I'VE NEVER EXPERIENCED ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE.
WE'RE TRAPPED IN THIS SNOWSTORM.

DELICIOUS!

11

?

THE CARETAKERS HAVE BEEN AWAY SINCE YESTERDAY, HEADING TO KYUSHU FOR A FAMILY MEMORIAL SERVICE...

WE HAVE A BIT OF A DILEMMA.

THIS MORNING, WE HAD ALL PLANNED TO GO SHOPPING TOGETHER, SO...

WE'RE COMPLETELY OUT OF FOOD.

WHAT OF IT?

NOT EVEN A SINGLE SLICE OF BREAD?!

IF THIS BLIZZARD DOESN'T LET UP, WE MIGHT STARVE TO DEATH.

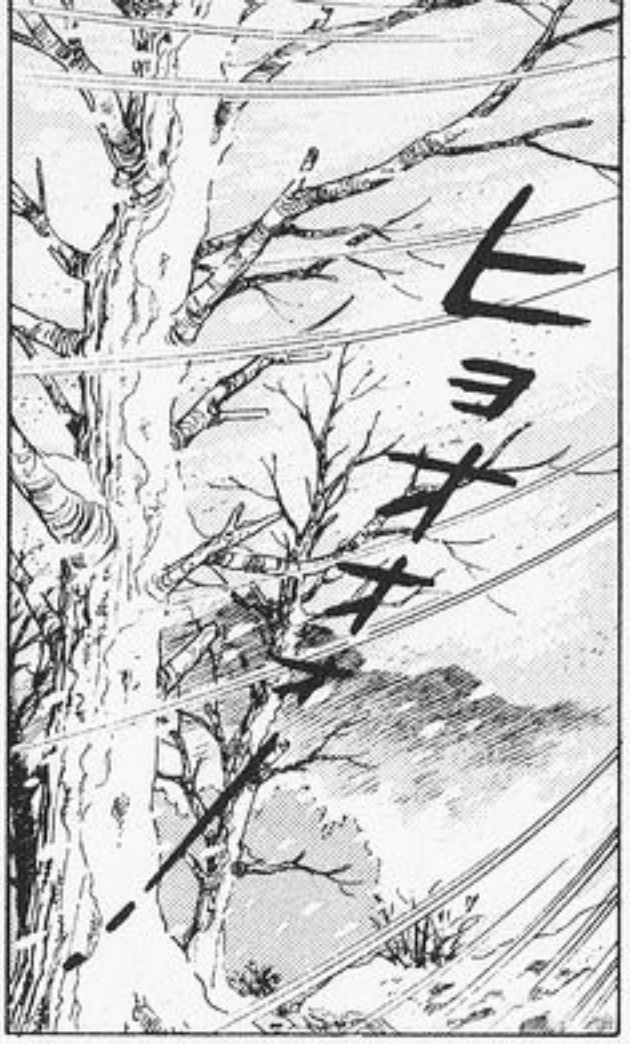
THE CARETAKERS TIDIED EVERYTHING UP BEFORE THEY TOOK THEIR HOLIDAY...

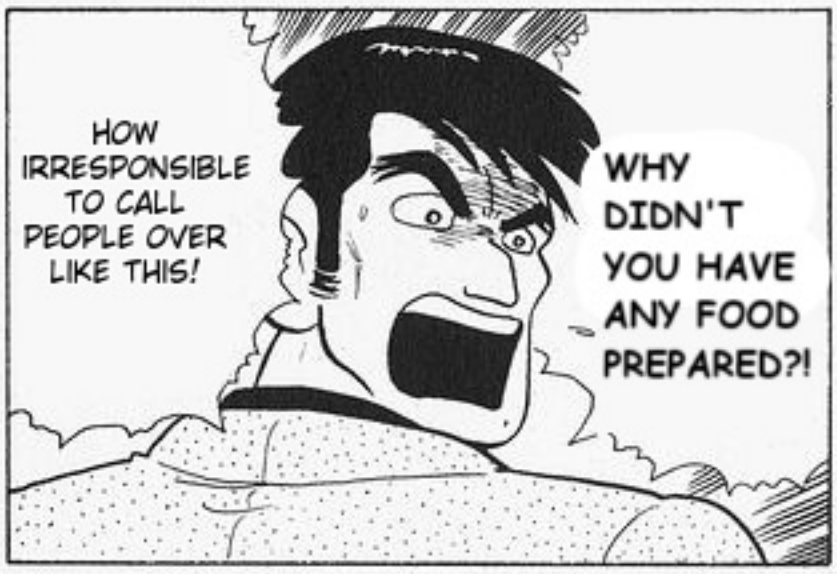
SINCE IT'S A VACATION HOME, WE NEVER KEEP EXTRA FOOD AROUND.

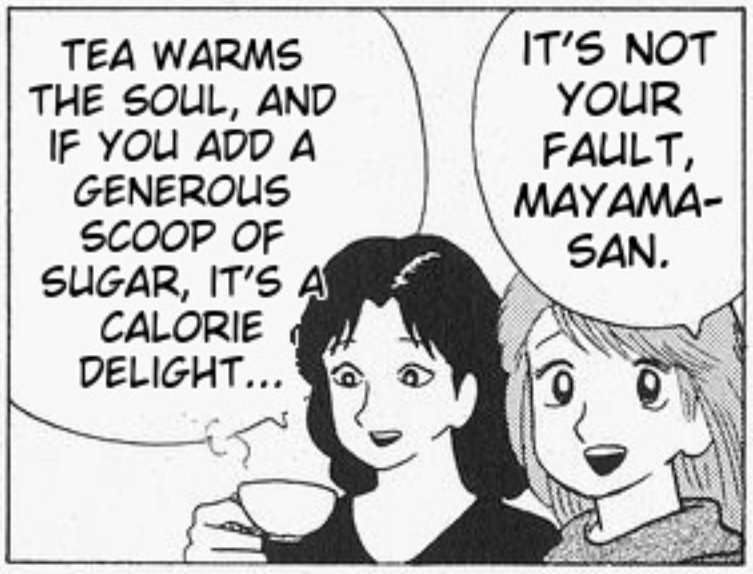
NO FOOD AT ALL?!

D-DAMN!!

DELICIOUS!







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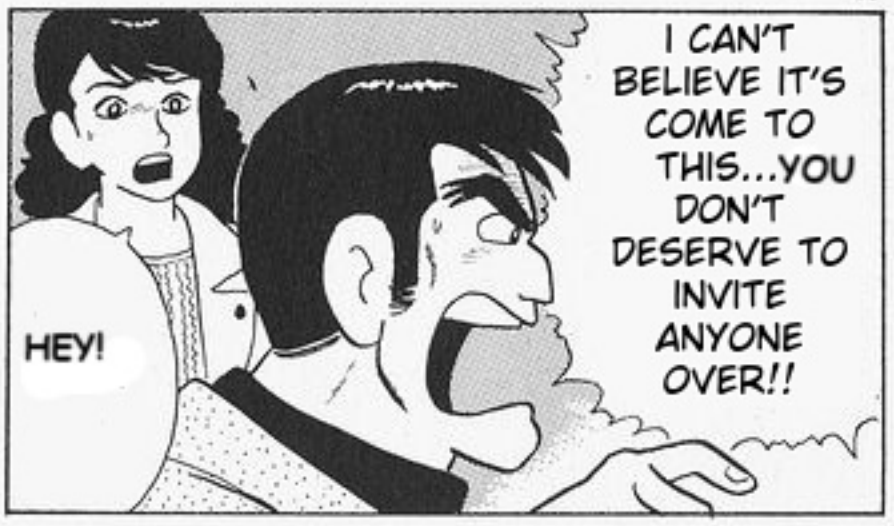

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YOU'RE JUST ADDING FUEL TO THE FIRE...!

THE POWER COULD GET CUT OFF AT ANY MOMENT!!

Y- YOU'RE RIGHT...

GET THE POLITICIANS TO MOBILIZE THE SELF-DEFENSE FORCES AND RESCUE ME!!

ARE YOU SAYING IT'S OKAY FOR ME, YOUR CEO, TO STARVE TO DEATH LOCKED UP HERE?!

COULD YOU TONE IT DOWN? MY EMPTY STOMACH CAN'T HANDLE THAT KIND OF VOLUME.

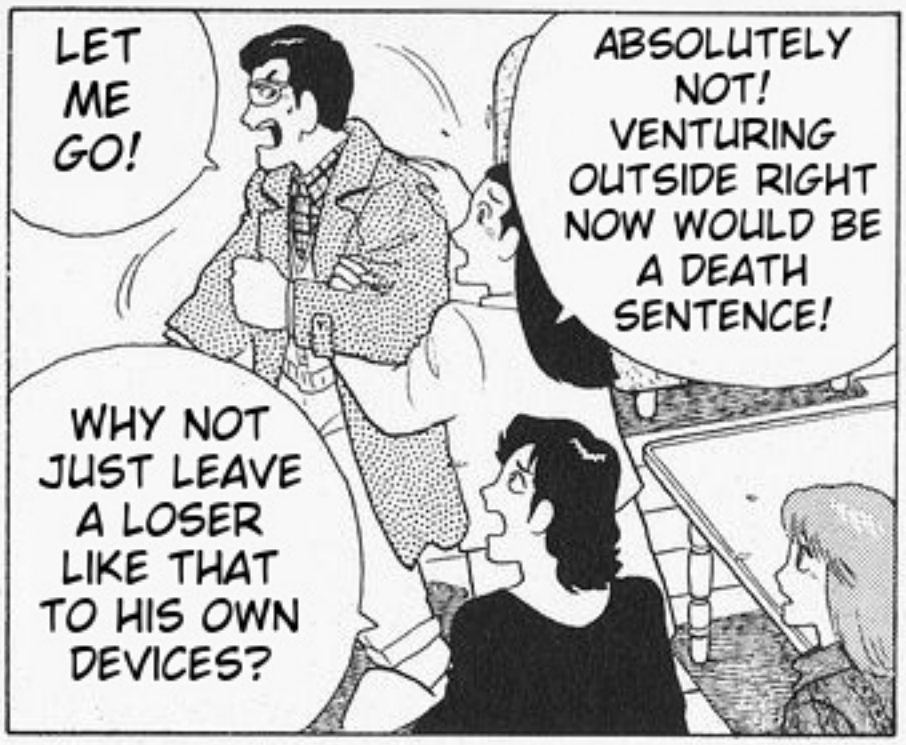
YOU'RE REALLY LOUD, YOU KNOW.

I'VE BEEN MAKING POLITICAL DONATIONS FOR MOMENTS JUST LIKE THIS!!

TO THINK I'D BE TREATED LIKE THIS AFTER BRINGING IN CUSTOMERS!!

IF YOU'RE SO HUNGRY, TAKE IT UP WITH THE MAYAMA COUPLE!

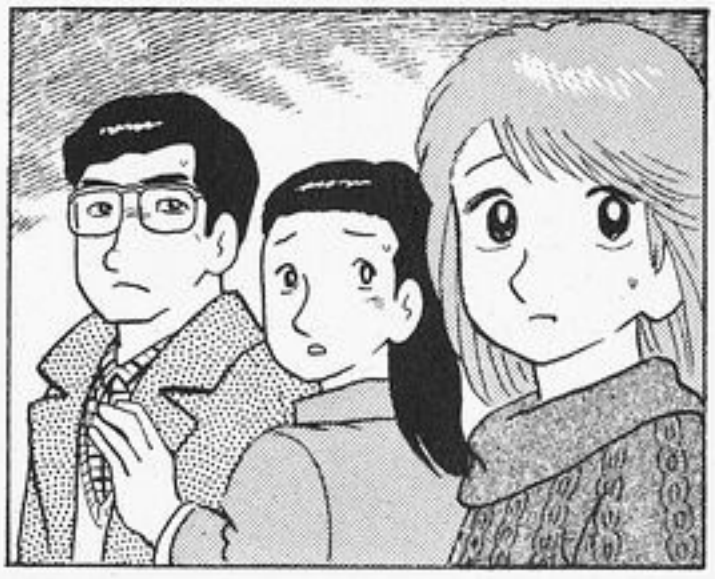
DELICIOUS!


LET ME GO!
ABSOLUTELY NOT! VENTURING OUTSIDE RIGHT NOW WOULD BE A DEATH SENTENCE!
WHY NOT JUST LEAVE A LOSER LIKE THAT TO HIS OWN DEVICES?

AFTER BEING TOLD OFF LIKE THIS, YOU THINK I CAN JUST SIT AROUND? I'M GOING TO SCAVENGE FOR SOME FOOD!
WHAT... WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO?

I FEEL SORRY FOR YOUR EMPLOYEES SINCE THEY HAVE A JACKASS FOR A BOSS LIKE YOU...
WHA... WHAT?!
EVERYONE HERE IS SECRETLY WISHING YOU GET BURIED IN THE BLIZZARD AND NEVER COME BACK!

WITH A FOOL LIKE THAT STIRRING UP CHAOS OVER SUCH A TRIVIAL MATTER, THAT COMPANY'S IN SERIOUS TROUBLE!
YOU CLAIMED TO BE THE COMPANY PRESIDENT, BUT-



OH DEAR, I CAN'T WASTE MY TIME ON SOMEONE SO CLUELESS... I'LL JUST GO LOOK FOR ANY LEFTOVER FOOD!
YOU BASTARD!

THIS IS CLEANLINESS TAKEN TO AN EXTREME, ISN'T IT...

YES, THEY ARE QUITE THE NEAT FREAKS, YOU KNOW.

OH DEAR, THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NOTHING HERE!

IF ONLY WE COULD FIND SOME POTATOES, THAT WOULD REALLY SAVE THE DAY.

LET ME TAKE A LOOK.

THERE MIGHT STILL BE SOME REMNANTS LEFT OVER...

AH... THE CARETAKER COUPLE USED TO STASH VEGETABLES IN THE GROUND BEHIND THE KITCHEN FOR PRESERVATION, SO,

YIKES... THE ONLY THING THAT WAS LEFT WAS A WITHERED GREEN ONION! THIS WON'T DO AT ALL...

16

BUT EVEN WITH JUST FLOUR, THERE'S NOT MUCH WE CAN WHIP UP...

THIS IS ALL THAT'S TURNED UP.

ALRIGHT, WE'RE ABOUT TO CREATE SOME DELICIOUS SCALLION PANCAKES!

FLOUR, SESAME OIL, GREEN ONIONS,

OH, LOOK AT THAT! WE'VE GOT SESAME OIL—THIS IS GOING TO BE FANTASTIC!

OKAY, LET'S GET STARTED!

FIRST, KNEAD THE FLOUR UNTIL IT FEELS AS SOFT AS AN EARLOBE.

SCALLION PANCAKES?

I SEE!

ABSOLUTELY, MORE THAN ENOUGH!

THIS IS A CLASSIC CHINESE HOME-COOKED DISH... I HOPE YOU HAVE SALT ON HAND.

17

NOW, ROLL IT OUT AS THIN AS YOU CAN WITH THIS ROLLING PIN.

AFTER LETTING IT REST FOR ABOUT AN HOUR, TAKE A PIECE ABOUT THE SIZE OF TWO ADULT FISTS.

ONCE IT'S WELL-KNEADED, LET IT SIT TO DEVELOP THAT DELIGHTFUL ELASTICITY.

CHOP THE GREEN ONIONS FINELY; THE MORE, THE MERRIER FOR FLAVOR!

SPRINKLE SOME SALT...

SPREADING IT OUT EVENLY...

DRIZZLE SOME SESAME OIL ON TOP.

NOW, STARTING FROM THE EDGE, ROLL IT UP TIGHTLY AS YOU GO.

ONCE IT'S SHAPED LIKE A LOG, IT'S TIME TO SPIRAL IT UP!

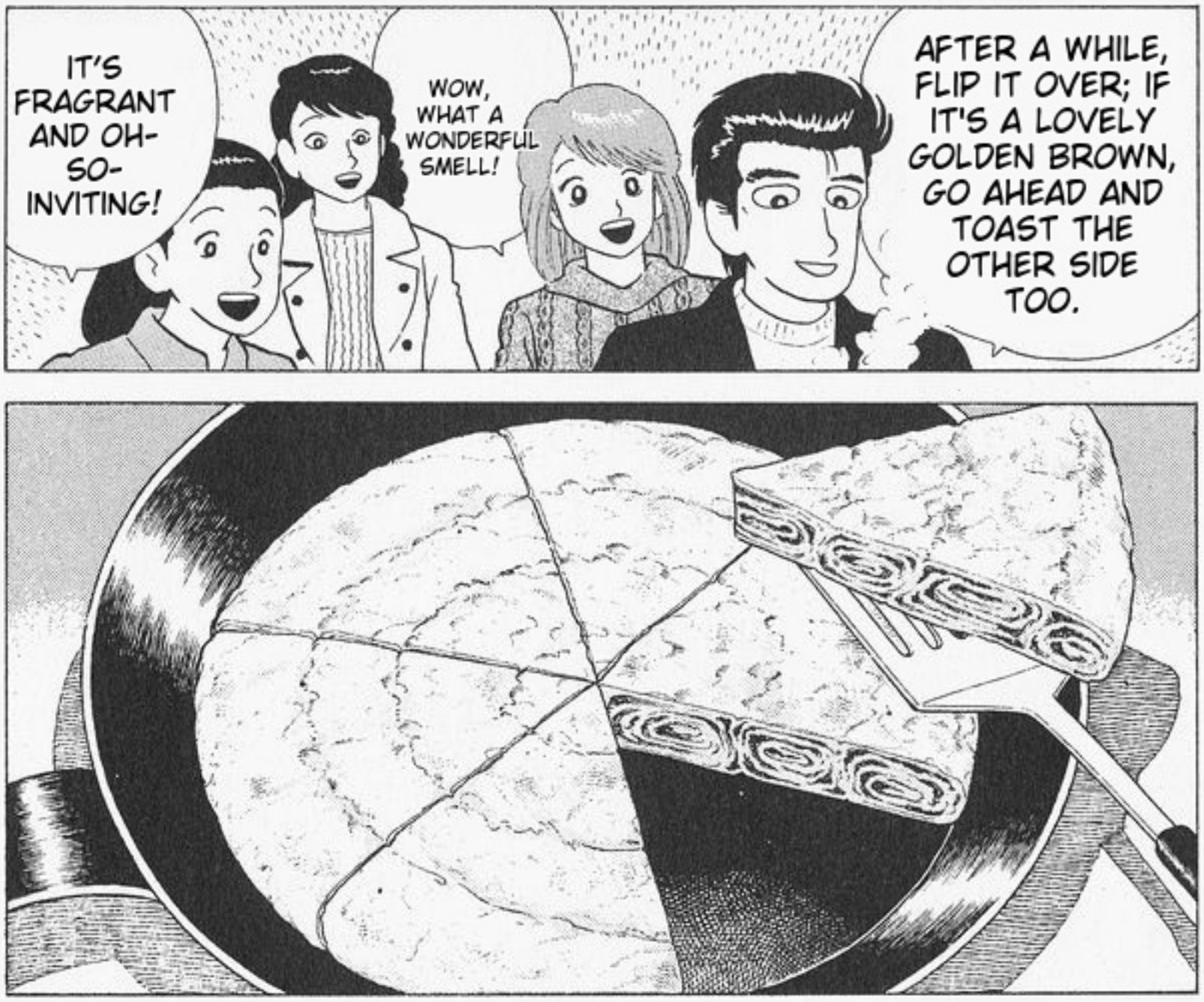
18

ADJUST THE HEAT TO LOW AND COVER IT UP.

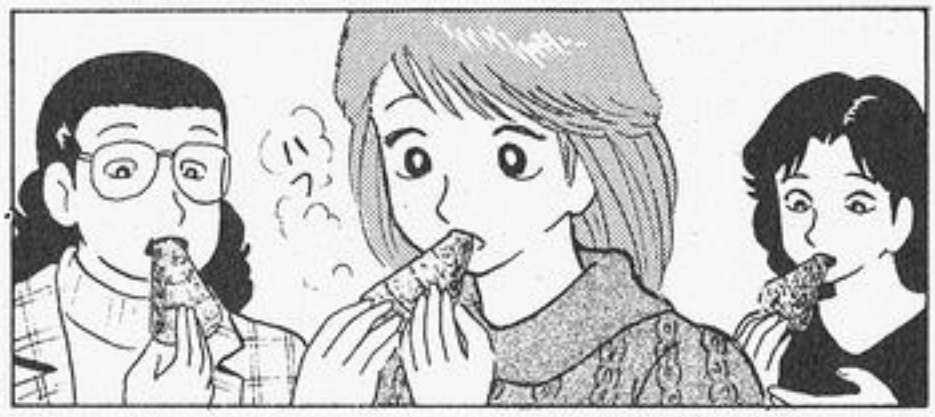
TRANSFER THIS TO THE SIZZLING HOT PAN,

ROLL THIS OUT WITH A ROLLING PIN UNTIL IT'S JUST THE RIGHT SIZE TO SNUGLY FIT IN THE FRYING PAN.

DELICIOUS!


IT'S FRAGRANT AND OH-SO-INVITING!
WOW, WHAT A WONDERFUL SMELL!
AFTER A WHILE, FLIP IT OVER; IF IT'S A LOVELY GOLDEN BROWN, GO AHEAD AND TOAST THE OTHER SIDE TOO.

WHAT A MOUTHWATERING AROMA!
THIS SCENT IS SIMPLY...



THE SURFACE IS CRISPY WHILE THE INSIDE IS DELIGHTFULLY SOFT, JUST LIKE A CHINESE PASTRY!
DELICIOUS! THE SCALLIONS AND SESAME OIL ARE SUCH A PERFECT MATCH!

WOOOW, IT'S DELICIOUS!
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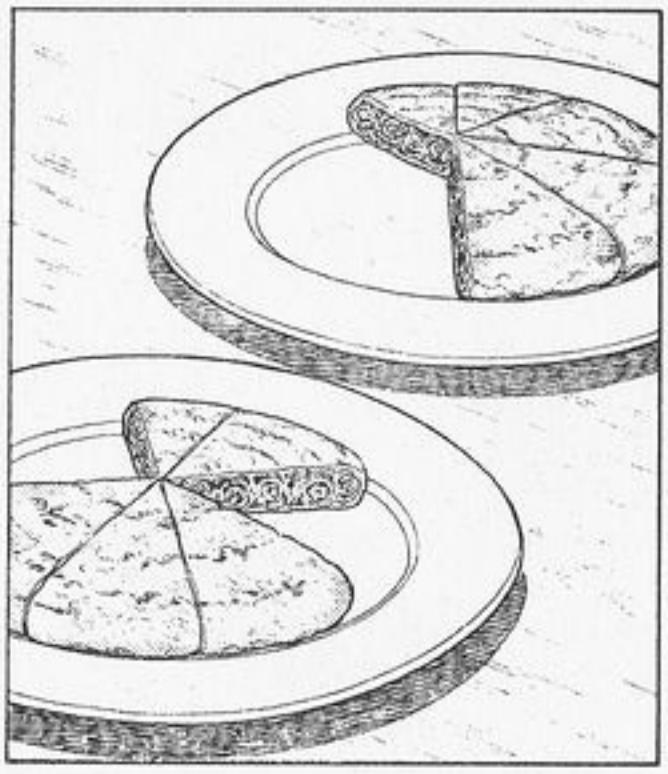

JUST IMAGINE SAVORING A SUCCULENT PEKING DUCK OR SMOKY DELICACIES—IT'S PURE BLISS!

THE RICH FLAVOR OF SESAME OIL MINGLES WITH THE GREEN ONIONS, CREATING A SYMPHONY OF TASTE.

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HOLD ON, HOLD ON, HOLD ON! I WAS THE ONE WHO MADE THOSE RICE CAKES! NOT A SINGLE WORD OF THANKS FOR ME?!
IF ONLY YOU HAD KEPT YOUR MOUTH SHUT, EVERYONE WOULD HAVE RESPECTED YOU!
THIS IS WHY... AH...

I'M SO GRATEFUL; WITH THIS, WE CAN SURVIVE THE DAY!

THANKS TO THE CARETAKERS, WE EVEN HAVE LEEKS STORED UNDERGROUND!
THE CARETAKERS ARE TRULY AMAZING; THEY'VE STOCKED UP ON FLOUR LIKE PROS.

SCOURING FOR INGREDIENTS, AND CRAFTED SOMETHING SO DELICIOUS WITH WHATEVER YOU HAD ON HAND.

I PANICKED AT THE MERE THOUGHT OF BEING TRAPPED IN A BLIZZARD WITH NO FOOD, YET YOU REMAINED COLLECTED,

WHEN FACED WITH ADVERSITY, A TRUE MAN CALMLY SEARCHES FOR A WAY TO OVERCOME IT.

NO, I GENUINELY RESPECT YOU, MR. YAMAOKA.

MR. YAMAOKA, THANK YOU SO MUCH; MY GRATITUDE COMES FROM THE DEPTHS OF MY HEART.

THIS SIMPLE PANCAKE REMINDED ME THAT I HAD TRULY LOST THE JOY OF BEING MOVED BY SOMETHING DELICIOUS UNTIL NOW...

YOU...

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OH NO, AN EARTHQUAKE!!

TSUNAMI'S ON ITS WAY TOO!!

THE BUILDING'S COLLAPSING!! IT'S BEING SWALLOWED BY A CRACK IN THE EARTH!!

WHOA, AN EARTHQUAKE!!

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BUT HE WAS JUST A GLUTTON AFTER ALL!

BACK THEN, MR. OIDE PRAISED MR. YAMAOKA FOR OVERCOMING THE CRISIS CALMLY AND WITHOUT FUSS...

'OISHINBO' VOLUME 12 - THE END -

美味(おい)しんぼ12　　—黄金の意味—

ビッグ コミックス

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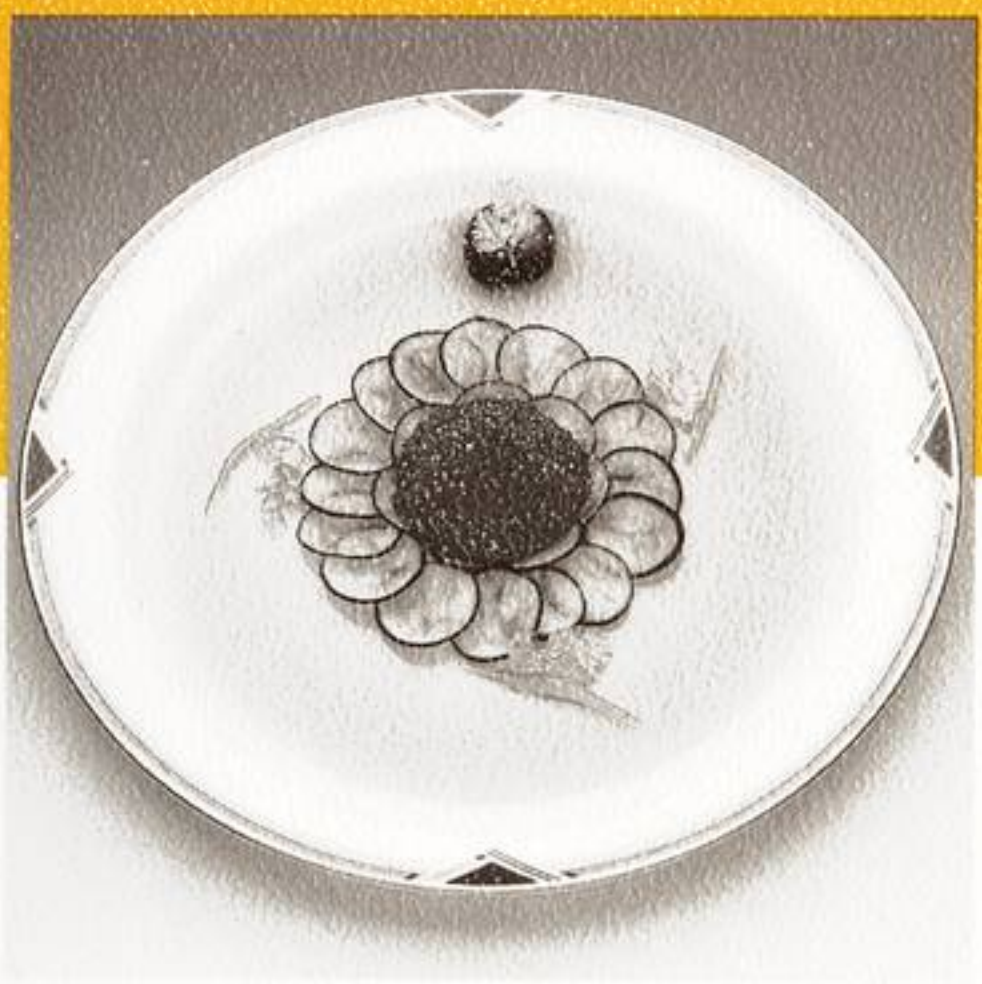

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